

Circulation of fake notes

*266. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that counterfeit Indian currency notes are circulating in the country through India-Nepal border;
- (b) if so, what action Government has taken in this regard, the details thereof;
- (c) how many fake Indian currency notes have been recovered by Government during last three years and current years, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the smugglers are now targeting small towns in the country to circulate the counterfeit currencies; and
- (e) if so, what is Government's response to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) Cases of smuggling and circulation of fake Indian currency have been reported in the country including those from across the Indo-Nepal border. Intelligence and security agencies of Central and State Governments keep a close watch on the elements involved in the circulation of fake currency in the country and take action in accordance with law.

The Government has taken various measures in this regard which *inter alia*, include:-

- (i) Vigil is being maintained at the India Nepal border to check the smuggling and circulation of FICN. There has been excellent cooperation between security agencies of the two countries to check the influx of FICN into India.
- (ii) Training programmes are conducted for the Nepalese Police officers on combating the circulation of fake currency notes to sensitize them on smuggling/counterfeiting of Indian currency.
- (iii) FICN Coordination Centre (FCORD) has been established by the MHA to share intelligence/ information among different security agencies of the states/ central government to counter the problem of circulation of FICN in the country.
- (iv) A Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell (TFFC) has also been created in NIA to investigate terror funding and FICN cases.

(c) As per data available with National Crime Records Bureau, face value of FICN seized during the years 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019 (upto 30.6.2019) is ₹ 24.61 crores, ₹ 28.10 crores, ₹ 17.75 crores and ₹ 6.22 crores respectively.

(d) and (e) FICN has been seized/ recovered in small towns in India. Mostly, it is of lower denomination and low quality FICN printed with the help of scanners/ printers. RBI conducts awareness programmes for the State Police personnel/ bank personnel/ general public on identifying FICN. Training programmes are regularly conducted for State police personnel on FICN.

Sikh prisoners under TADA

*267. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Sikh prisoners arrested under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) have completed their sentence long back and have not yet been released;

(b) the number of such prisoners, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to release them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) Religion-wise details of prisoners are not maintained centrally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Prisons' and 'Persons detained therein' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. State Governments are responsible for prison administration, and are competent to consider and take decision on release of prisoners as per the provisions of law.

Ailments caused due to GAIL gas pipeline blast

*268. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that 17 survivors of GAIL gas pipeline blast at Nagaram in Konaseema region in 2014 are still suffering from various ailments and three of them are in a pitiable condition;