

[6 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

vest officers of the State with powers to arrest and deport illegal Bangladeshi immigrants;

(b) whether the Centre is also seized of the problem of illegal migrants gaining clout, armed with voting rights and claims of Indian citizenship; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated to check the influx?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Illegal migrants, including a large number of Bangladeshi nationals have been staying in various parts of the country unauthorisedly and the possibility of inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls etc. can not be ruled out. The Central Government has taken several steps to deal with the situation. Powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments and UT Administrations. Besides, administrative instructions are also issued to them from time to time to launch special drives to detect foreign nationals staying illegally in the country for their immediate deportation. Further to check illegal influx into the country, several measures have been taken by the Government which include strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; raising of additional battalion of BSF; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment etc.

Militancy in North-Eastern States

1830. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many attacks by the militants have taken place in the North Eastern States during the last six months ending 30th June, 2003, State-wise;

(b) the number of casualties in these attacks, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons kidnapped during this period, State-wise;

(d) the number of militants killed/arrested/surrendered during this period, State-wise; and

(e) the measures taken by the Central Government to demolish their hide-outs whether inland or abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) to (d) As per reports, the information in respect of militancy in North Eastern States during the last six months ending 30th June, 2003 is as under:

(i) No. of militant attacks-	738
(ii) No. of casualties (Security Forces, civilians & militants)-	503
(iii) No. of persons kidnapped-	437
(iv) No. of militants surrendered-	271

It will not be desirable in public interest to disclose further details.

(e) Government has taken various steps to tackle the terrorist outfits. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-military forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, declaration of the entire State of Assam as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; implementation of a project for fencing of the India-Bangladesh border; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernization/ up-gradation of State Police Forces. The Government has also taken up the issue of militant outfits having bases in Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. These Governments have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.