

Fencing of North-East Border

*197. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for fencing and flood-lighting the North-East border to check the infiltration from Bangladesh and Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) A scheme for construction of 896 Km. of barbed wire fencing along selected stretches of the Indo-Bangladesh Border is under implementation. There is, however, no proposal to fence the Indo-Myanmar border or to flood-light any portion of the border in the North-East.

(b) The details of the scheme under implementation and its progress in various States are as below :

| State | Sanctioned length for fencing (Kms) | Work completed as on 31.5.96 (Kms) | Yet to be completed (Kms) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Assam | 158 | 125.24 | 32.76 |
| Meghalaya | 231 | 167.63 | 63.37 |
| West Bengal | 507 | 319.18 | 187.82 |
| Total | 896 | 612.05 | 283.95 |

(c) The scheme is scheduled to be completed by March, 1998.

Militant Activities of ULFA

*198. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some ULFA militants were killed and some apprehended on June 25, 1996 in an encounter with the Army at Baithalangsa in Karbi Anglong District of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons/army personnel killed/injured during the elections.

(c) the reasons for this sudden spurt of violence by ULFA; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d). Reports indicate that on the night of 24th/25th June, 1996, in Kokalungso, in a raid against an ULFA camp, four hardcore ULFA militants (including one Self Styled District Commander) were killed while three militants were captured. Besides, 13 weapons, a large quantity of ammunition and cash amounting to Rs. 56,000/- were recovered. There were no casualties on the side of the security forces.

According to information available, 26 persons were killed in ULFA related violence between 27th March, 1996 and 15th May, 1996.

During the period immediately preceding and succeeding the recent General Elections, there has been an upswing in the activities of ULFA in some parts of the State. ULFA tried to take advantage of the transitory phase immediately following the General Elections and extend its area of influence through a systematic terror campaign. ULFA has also adopted the strategy of hit and run from its safe sanctuaries/basis.

To contain the growing menace of ULFA and other outfits like Bdsf and the NSCN, the army, para military forces and police are maintaining constant vigil. Both State and Central agencies are coordinating and sharing information and are on the lookout for detection/apprehension of the extremist elements. Central para military forces and armed police from other States have been deployed in Assam to assist the State Government in maintaining peace. The whole of Assam stands declared as 'disturbed area'. The army has been operating in the areas seriously affected by ULFA violence. ULFA also has been declared as an unlawful organisation under the provision of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Free Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters

*199. SHRI M. SELVARASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether free rail passes are given only to the freedom fighters drawing Central Pension;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this facility to the freedom fighters drawing pension from the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Though these passes are issued by the Ministry of Railways, the cost thereof borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since the State Freedom Fighters Pension Schemes are run by the concerned State Governments, it is for them to consider the demand.