

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1579
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
SMUGGLING THROUGH SEA ROUTES
Dube Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of smuggling of arms, ammunitions and narcotic drugs through sea routes are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date;
- (c) whether the existing scanners in the Ports are capable of detecting smuggled arms and ammunitions and contra-band drugs; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling and to upgrade the existing security and scanning systems?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SMT. RADHIKA V. SELVI)

(a): Intelligence inputs received from field formations indicate that the coastline along several States and Union Territories is vulnerable to illegal cross border activities including smuggling of arms/ammunitions and contraband drugs. However, no major seizures of these items smuggled into the country through sea route, have been made by Customs in the recent past.

(b): No, Sir, in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. At ports, imported cargo is subjected to physical examination as per prescribed norms so as to detect Misdeclaration with intent to evade payment of duty as well as to detect concealed contraband goods. Such physical examination is done on the basis of risk profiling of the containers. Also the containers are detained and examined on the basis of specific intelligence regarding smuggling of contraband goods. Thirdly, at Nhava Sheva Port, some containers are scanned using non-intrusive inspection equipment so as to detect concealed /misdeclared goods. Thus, physical examination as per norms, examination based on specific intelligence and non-intrusive inspection of containers are being used to detect smuggled contraband goods including arms/ammunitions/narcotics drugs.