

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2206

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30th JULY, 2014 / SRAVANA 8, 1936 (SAKA)

NAXALS HAVING LINKS WITH OTHER OUTFITS

2206. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that with more than one lakh cadre, sophisticated weapons like AK 47, INSAS Rifles, mortars and with lots of explosives, naxals are becoming formidable and parallel force in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has idea about the youths joining the naxals and their total State-wise number in the naxal affected areas;

(c) whether these naxals have key links with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland Isak-muivah (NSCN-IM) and other terrorist organizations; and

(d) how Government prepared to meet the challenges and threats posed by these outlaws?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The LWE groups, particularly, the CPI(Maoist) are having large number of cadres and weapons including the sophisticated weapons. As per available reports, the estimated armed cadre strength of the LWE groups is around 8500. However, their support base is in larger numbers. The LWE groups, particularly the CPI(Maoist) are using weapons/ equipments like LMG, AK-47, SLR, .303 Rifles, GF Rifles, HE Grenades and VHF & HF sets for attacks on security forces. Notwithstanding some setbacks in the recent times, the CPI(Maoist) retains its core armed strength and the capacity to launch spectacular attacks.

(b): It is true that the LWE groups recruit a large number of youth every year. As per the reports available, in 2013, these groups recruited around 433 cadres from the LWE affected States. However, the exact State-wise quantification of the cadre strength cannot be done as the CPI(Maoist) do not follow State-wise cadre strength but maintain cadre strength according to the organizational structure of the Party.

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(c): The banned CPI(Maoist) party is trying to establish organizational bases in the North East with a view to forge relations with other insurgent groups to meet its military requirements. In this regard, the CPI(Maoist) have developed close fraternal ties with North-East insurgent groups like the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) / People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur, NSCN(IM) of Nagaland and ULFA of Assam. The outfit also forged a tactical understanding with the RPF/PLA and NSCN (IM) for procuring arms & ammunition and imparting military/communication training to its cadres.

(d): The Government of India has alerted the State Governments concerned of the North-East in this regard. The Government is also monitoring the situation closely. The activities of CPI(Maoist) party has declined significantly in the North-East in recent times, consequent to the arrest of important cadres from the area.

The Central Government has a four pronged strategy to tackle LWE insurgency - Security Related Measures; Development Related Measures; Ensuring Rights & Entitlements of Local Communities and Public Perception Management, wherein it supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of schemes and measures.

In security related interventions, apart from directly deploying Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the Government of India provides assistance for capacity building of the states through schemes like the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), the Construction/ Strengthening of Fortified Police Stations Scheme etc. In addition, other security related interventions include providing helicopters to States, setting up of Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorism (CIAT) schools, assistance to raise India Reserve Battalions (IRB), modernization and upgradation of the State Police and their Intelligence apparatus under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF scheme) etc.

On the development front, the Central Government is implementing special schemes for LWE affected areas like the Additional Central Assistance (ACA) Scheme (in place of old Integrated Action Plan), the Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I) etc.

To ensure Rights & Entitlements of local communities, the Central Government has enacted the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. The Rules were notified on 01.01.2008 have been further amended on 06.09.2012 to ensure better implementation. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have also issued comprehensive guidelines on 12.07.2012 on issues relating to implementation of the Act.

Under Public Perception Management, the Central Government is implementing the Media Plan to convey the Government's view to the people of LWE affected areas through the Media.

It is the belief of the Government of India that a combination of calibrated police action, focused development efforts and improvement in governance are the effective instrumentalities to combat LWE insurgency in the long-term.
