

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3741

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH APRIL, 2017/CHAITRA 15, 1939, (SAKA)
TOOLS AVAILABLE WITH POLICE TO CONTROL CROWDS/PROTESTERS
3741. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) what are the tools available with the police to control crowds/protesters;
- (b) whether keeping in view of the water crisis in the country, it is feasible to ban water cannons used to manage crowds;
- (c) whether laughing gas can be introduced as a less-harmful deterrent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

- (a) Police is a State subject, hence State Govt. concerned is mandated to take measures to ensure protection of their police personnel. However, Govt. of India provides central assistance for procurement of various safety instruments/equipments including Anti-Riot Equipment, Full Body Protector, Bullet Resistant(BR) Jackets, Bullet Resistant(BR) Helmets, MSL, Tear Gas, PAVA Shells, Chilli Water Canon under the scheme of

Modernization of Police Force (MPF) as per their operational requirement and strategic priorities to the State police. Similar assistance is separately provided to the CAPF for safety instruments/equipments for their personnel. These personnel are also imparted requisite training and regular mock drills to deal with such situations effectively.

(b) Bureau of Police & Development, MHA, report "Précis on Crowd Control" exhaustively dealt with various problems and challenges that arise in controlling crowds and maintenance of law and order. As per the report, water canons developed by the DRDO are commonly used in crowd and riot control for dispersal or to prevent movement on particular position and are considered most effective methods to disperse mobs.

(c) to (e) As regards the use of "laughing gas" for controlling crowd, as less harmful detergent, BPR&D has not conducted any test/trial to assess its suitability for riot control.
