GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1971

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03RD AUGUST, 2022/ SRAVANA 12, 1944 (SAKA) FUNCTIONING OF NIA

1971. SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made by Government to strengthen the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in recent years;
- (b) the number of cases being handled by NIA at present;
- (c) details of increase in the number of cases over the years, year-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is a need for better regulation and engagement of experts in NIA for speedy investigation of cases; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard and Government's efforts and plans to bring about these changes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

- (a) to (e): The Central Government reviews administrative and legal requirements of National Investigation Agency (NIA) from time to time. Since 2019, the Government has taken several measures to enhance capacity of the NIA, which include as under:
 - I. The NIA Act was amended in year 2019 to enlarge the mandate of the NIA by inclusion of offences related to human trafficking, manufacture & sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and expand its jurisdictions beyond India.

- II. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 was amended in year 2019 to empower DG (NIA) to seize/attach the properties related to proceeds of terrorism in cases being investigated by the NIA.
- III. In order to enhance capacity of NIA in terms of specialists, the financial powers delegated to Director General of NIA for engaging consultants/ experts/ professionals have been enhanced.
- IV. 481 posts and 10 new branch offices at Chandigarh, Ranchi, Imphal, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar have been sanctioned.

Since its inception, the Central Government has entrusted 473 cases to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for investigation. The year-wise details are as under:-

2009	08
2010	11
2011	16
2012	16
2013	27
2014	14
2015	21
2016	34
2017	36
2018	59
2019	62
2020	59
2021	61
2022 (up to 29 th July)	49
Total	473

The increase in registration of cases by the NIA over the years is mainly due to the enhanced capacity of NIA with sanction of new Branch offices and the augmented scope of NIA.