

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

**National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by Lok Sabha following appeal from Union
Home Minister Shri Amit Shah**

**Bill proposes to empower NIA to investigate Terror Crimes relating to Indians and Indian interests
abroad**

**Terrorism is Terrorism, it's neither RIGHT nor LEFT; Perpetrators of terrorist acts will get punished:
Shri Amit Shah**

New Delhi, 15th July, 2019

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by Lok Sabha today, after a detailed discussion and a spirited defense by Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah.

While replying to the debate on the Bill to give powers to NIA to investigate the terror crimes relating to Indians and Indian interests abroad, today in Lok Sabha, the Home Minister backed a strong NIA to strengthen the legal framework against terrorism. He said that cases under NIA have been expedited and 90% of the cases have reached their logical conclusion, which is one of the finest records in the world. Shri Shah hailed the NIA for its achievements and said that India would finish terrorism by building a strong NIA.

Allaying opposition's apprehensions on misuse of agencies the Home Minister quoted the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and said that this Government is governed by Rule of Law and all investigative agencies follow the procedure established by law. He reassured the House that the agency would not be misused in any way by the Government.

Reiterating 'Zero Tolerance' policy of the Government against terrorism, Shri Shah said "Terrorism is Terrorism, it's neither RIGHT nor LEFT. Perpetrators of terrorist acts need to be punished and will get punished."

Shri Shah said, "We care for the widows of our martyred soldiers, we care for their sacrifices. Thus, it is important to give more powers to NIA to investigate terror related crimes abroad and bring justice to these widows."

Replying to issues raised by Opposition members that Pakistan has not signed the SAARC agreement to tackle terrorism, thus making the NIA less effective in tracking terror cases emanating from Pakistan, Shri Shah said that the NIA Bill cannot be held hostage to Pakistan not signing the SAARC pact. Pakistan would also have to sign the pact under international pressure one day, he said adding that till Pakistan doesn't sign the pact, there are other ways to tackle terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

While taking part in the debate on the bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri. G. Kishan Reddy reinforced Government's federal outlook and said that state police teams and other agencies would work in coordination with NIA in terror related matters. There would be no encroachment by the Centre on the activities of the State machinery, he added.

Shri Reddy said that the multi-agency centre would be strengthened and sharing of information between Centre and states on terrorism related matters would be smoothened. There would be no discrimination among the agencies.

The Minister further added that terrorism has no religion, no caste, no gender. It is against humanity. The Government will take all stakeholders along with itself in fighting terrorism, following a 'Zero Tolerance Policy'.

VG/BB/VM

Regards

MHA Unit, PIB