GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1661

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st DECEMBER, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 30, 1944 (SAKA)

POLICE MODERNISATION IN PUNJAB

1661 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry for police modernisation in the country;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering Punjab Government's demand of placing the State in "Category A" instead of "Category B";

(c) whether the Ministry is considering Punjab's demand of granting additional funds to the tune of ₹ 50 crore to the State for strengthening the border police stations and the intelligence infrastructure; and

(d) steps taken by the Ministry to implement the suggestions issued by the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh judgment?

ANSWER

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

(a) Modernisation of police is a continuous and ongoing process. Although 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments towards equipping and modernizing their police forces, by providing financial assistance under the renamed scheme of 'Assistance to States and Union Territories for Modernisation of Police(ASUMP)' [erstwhile scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces(MPF)]. Under this scheme, the States are provided central assistance for acquisition of advanced weaponry and equipment for intelligence, communication, security, training, forensics, cybercrime, traffic policing, etc. Further, 'construction' and 'purchase of operational vehicles' are also permitted in the insurgency affected North-Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts. Moreover, Union Territories (UTs) have been included and construction of police station buildings is allowed to all States and UTs from the current financial year. Outlay of ASUMP scheme is ₹ 4846 crore for the period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. However, actual allocation of the scheme will be as per the past performance of the States in utilizing released funds under the scheme.

(b) Funding pattern for centrally sponsored schemes, as decided by NITI Aayog, is followed for this scheme as well. Accordingly, for 8 North Eastern States and two Himalayan States, namely, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the funding pattern is 90(Centre):10 (State), which forms "Category A" States and for the remaining States, it is 60(Centre): 40(State), which forms "Category B" States. There is no proposal of placing Punjab in "Category A" instead of "Category B" under consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) A proposal from Government of Punjab for additional funds amounting
to ₹150 crore for strengthening the border police stations and the

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intelligence infrastructure under the above-said scheme has been received. However, since additional funds are not available under the scheme, the proposal could not be acceded to.

(d) Police reforms are an ongoing process. "Police" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State **Governments/UT** Administrations to implement police reforms. The Government of India also issues advisories to the States to bring in the requisite reforms in the police administration to meet the lawful expectations of the people. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had passed seven directives on police reforms vide its Order dated 22nd September, 2006 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 310 of 1996 filed in the matter of Prakash Singh & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors. "Police" being State subject, the aforesaid judgment of the Supreme Court was sent to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on 26th September, 2006 for its implementation.
