

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3718**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH APRIL, 2023/ CHAITRA 15, 1945 (SAKA)

CASES REGISTERED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ASSAM

3718 SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered for human trafficking in the State of Assam during the last one year along with the percentage of Indian Nationals and foreign Nationals involved in the said cases;

(b) the number of persons apprehended in this connection during last one year;

(c) whether the India-Bangladesh border is considered a safe gateway for smuggling humans in and out of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures adopted by Government to curb human trafficking in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) & (b): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles crime statistics reported to it by the States and Union Territories and publishes the same in its annual publication 'Crime in India'. The latest published report is of the year 2021. During the year 2021, 203 cases of human trafficking were reported by the State of Assam and 349 persons were arrested. Specific information on percentage of Indian/foreign nationals is not available centrally.

(c) & (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are "State-List" subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, primarily it is the responsibility of respective State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take appropriate steps for preventing and countering the crime of human trafficking.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been supplementing the efforts of the States/Union Territories in this regard by undertaking various initiatives. MHA has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs 98.86 crores under "Nirbhaya Fund" to all States/Union Territories, including the State of Assam, during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 for strengthening the existing Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and for establishing new AHTUs covering all districts of the States/Union Territories. MHA provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for holding 'Judicial Colloquiums' and 'State level conferences' for sensitizing judicial officers, police officials and other concerned stakeholders to make available to them updated information on the latest provisions of law relating to human trafficking and best practices, etc. MHA has also issued advisories and guidelines to the States/Union Territories on preventing and countering human trafficking. These advisories are available on MHA's website at: <https://www.mha.gov.in/>. The National

Investigation Agency Act, 2008 was amended in the year 2019 and the National Investigation Agency has been authorised to investigate cases of human trafficking under Sections 370 and 370A of the Indian Penal Code. For addressing cross-border/transnational issues of human trafficking, bilateral Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Bangladesh, UAE, Cambodia and Myanmar; and multilateral instruments on human trafficking have also been signed by India.

MHA has provided financial assistance to the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Border Security Force (BSF) for establishing Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in international border area. SSB and BSF have established 5 and 15 AHTUs respectively in the border areas.

BSF has taken the following steps for strengthening the border area on Indo-Bangladesh Border:-

- (i) Detailed vulnerability mapping has been carried out along the Indo-Bangladesh border to strengthen surveillance.**
- (ii) Advanced Surveillance equipments are used for strengthening the surveillance mechanism.**
- (iii) Erection of Border Fence on the International Border.**
- (iv) Installation of Border Flood Lights to light up the area during hours of darkness.**

- (v) Use of water crafts/boats and floating Border Outposts for domination of riverine area of International Border.**
- (vi) Strengthening of intelligence network and coordination with sister agencies.**
- (vii) Joint co-ordinated patrolling by BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh on Indo-Bangladesh Border.**
