

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1900**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 10, 1945 (SAKA)

SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND NARCOTICS

1900. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that smuggling of arms and narcotics is rampantly being deployed through drones from Pakistan through Punjab border;

(b) if so, the number of incidents that have so far been detected by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment or report to gauge the gravity of the types of smuggling being carried out through drones through India-Pakistan borders;

(d) if so, the steps the Government has taken so far in this regard; and

(e) the other steps the Government proposes to take to prevent smuggling of arms and narcotics etc. through drones?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK)**

(a) to (c): Anti-national elements/smugglers are using drones for smuggling of Arms/Narcotics across India-Pakistan border in the State of Punjab. In last three years and till 30th June, 2023, 53 incidents of recovery of drones involved in smuggling of Arms/Narcotics have been detected.

(d) & (e): Steps taken by the Government in this regard include the following:-

- i. Effective domination of the borders being done by BSF by carrying out round the clock surveillance of the border, viz. patrolling, laying nakas, manning observation posts all along the International Border.**
- ii. Erection of Border Fence on the International Border.**
- iii. Installation of Border Flood lights along Border Security Fence to light up the area during hours of darkness.**
- iv. Strengthening of intelligence network and coordination with other security agencies.**
- v. Detailed vulnerability mapping has been carried out along Indo-Pakistan border including State of Punjab to strengthen surveillance by deploying vehicles and additional special surveillance equipments. Integrated Surveillance technology equipped with CCTV / PTZ Cameras, IR sensors and infrared alarm with Command and Control system have also been installed at international border.**
- vi. Anti-drone systems have been deployed in border areas of Punjab to counter the drone threats. Further, an anti-rogue drone SOP has been formulated and circulated to field units and is being followed.**

- vii. Local police is immediately informed as soon any such drone movement is observed for search in interior areas. Depth Nakas are regularly laid in suspected dropping zones of drone.**
- viii. The general public in border areas have been sensitized and made aware of such UAV/Drone activities, their likely security implications and are encouraged to inform about any such activities in the rear areas to BSF as well as the local police.**
- ix. MHA has established Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee (ARDTC) under supervision of DG BSF with mandate to evaluate the technology available to counter rogue drones and certify its effectiveness in dealing with rouge drones.**
