

No.15011/35/2013-ATC
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

New Delhi, the 23rd July, 2015

To

The Home Secretaries of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim and Meghalaya.

Subject: Associating SSB and BSF in crime meetings- reg.

Sir/Madam,

Human Trafficking is a transnational organized crime which needs a well coordinated response from various agencies involved in law enforcement as well as rescue and rehabilitation. Strengthening law enforcement response to the problem of human trafficking is a key focus area of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

2. Bangladesh and Nepal are considered to be major countries of origin and transit for men, women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, especially forced prostitution. There is internal trafficking within the country, but a large proportion of trafficking is cross border. Many border areas are frequently used as land routes for trafficking.

3. Due to the recent earthquake in Nepal, thousands of people have become homeless and have sought shelter at refugee camps. As per report many have also gone missing. An epidemic follows migration of people from one place to the other in search of better

opportunities to lead a suitable life. In such a situation, many people especially women and children from the earthquake affected areas in Nepal would become soft targets to the traffickers who are functioning with a network within the country as well as the other.

4. Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) have been mandated to guard various borders of the country. Whereas Border Security Force has been deployed to guard Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Pakistan borders, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed to guard Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.

5. Various measures are being taken by the border guarding forces to contain illegal crossing from across the borders which inter-alia include effective domination/surveillance of the border by carrying out round the clock patrolling, laying nakas; identification of Border Out Posts (BOPs) vulnerable to Human Trafficking; sharing of list of touts with counterparts; maintaining record of villagers residing in border areas at BOPs; frequent meetings with village pradhans, Panchayat members and villagers; erection of fencing on the International Border; installation of floodlight along the border and introduction of Hi-tech Surveillance equipment etc.

6. A large number of Anti Human Trafficking Units have been constituted by the States/UTs at district level to tackle the problem of human trafficking. It has emerged from our interaction with nodal officers in charge of human trafficking in States as well as in Border guarding forces that there is need of closer interaction of AHTUs with border guarding forces to share information and also take coordinated action. In view of this it is recommended that:

(i) An officer from operational battalion of BSF and SSB should be associated in the crime meetings taken by the Superintendent of Police of the district.

(ii) An officer from BSF or SSB should be associated with the AHTU constituted in each district.

7. Appropriate directions may be issued to the field officers accordingly under intimation to Ministry of Home Affairs.

Yours faithfully,

-sd-

(Kumar Alok)
Joint Secretary(CS)
Telefax:23438100

Copy to:

1. Director General, Seema Shashtra Bal, R.K. Puram, New Delhi with the request to issue appropriate order to the field units.
2. Director General, Border Security Force, CGO Complex, New Delhi with the request to issue appropriate order to the field units.