



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009

- The Standing committee on Home Affairs (Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu) submitted its 140th Report on 'The Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009' on February 24, 2010. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 7, 2009.
- The Bill seeks to establish the Land Ports Authority of India for the development of facilities for the cross-border movement of passengers and goods along the international border of India. While the Bill was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Committee feels that the Bill focusses on effective regulation of trade and commerce along international borders. If the Bill is to be under the purview of the Home Ministry, the security and strategic aspects should be reflected in the Bill.
- The Committee firmly recommends that the government should not involve the private sector to set up hotels and participate in other such activities in the Integrated Check Posts (ICP) premises since it could be a security threat. Only Public Sector Undertakings should be involved in such activities
- The Committee feels that the states should be consulted and involved at every stage of establishing the Land Ports Authority of India because they would provide land, basic infrastructure for ICPs and ensure safe ambience for functioning of ICPs.
- Thirteen locations of ICPs along the land borders of India have been identified and prioritized. The Committee, however, recommends that the government should examine setting up of more ICPs, after assessing the requirement, giving primacy to the security imperatives, besides the volume of trade and other relevant considerations.
- The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that each of the participating agencies function in a smooth manner and there is clearly demarcated jurisdiction, power and responsibility amongst them.
- The Committee states that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure foolproof surveillance and security at Line of Control (LoC) even while confidence Building Measures are underway. The Committee advises the Government that modern equipments, including scanners must be put in place to keep vigilance over the movement of persons and goods along the LoC. Also, intelligence sharing is necessary to ensure the security and sovereignty of the country.
- The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide a sustainable mechanism in the Bill to address the security imperatives and prevention of cross-border crimes. Unless this is done, the purpose of the Authority would not be served.
- The Committee is of the view that adequate mechanism must be put in place to check the inflow of fake Indian currency notes in the country because such activities not only pose a serious threat to national security but also possess tremendous potential to wreck the national economy from inside.

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