



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2011

- The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs submitted its 154th Report on the Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2011 on November 3, 2011 (Chairperson, M. Venkaiah Naidu). The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on August 18, 2011.
- The BSF Act specifies that the BSF shall operate along the borders of India. The Bill extends its area of operation to any other part of India notified by the central government.
- The Committee adopted the Bill without any changes and commended the Bill for passage.
- However, the Committee also suggested that concerns expressed by members of the Committee may be addressed appropriately.
- Some of these concerns include: (i) whether the Bill infringes on the federal structure of the Indian Constitution; (ii) impact of the Bill on the character, duties and responsibilities of the BSF; (iii) reasons for the deployment of the BSF to manage matters of internal security; (iv) justification for granting powers of search, seizure and arrest to BSF personnel; (v) experiences of other paramilitary forces that have enabling provisions; (vi) whether the Bill will regularize the use of the Army to deal with matters of internal security; (vii) deployment of BSF in Indo-Bhutan and Assam-West Bengal border areas; and (viii) deputation allowance.

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