Cops yet to find the brain behind false rape case against SSB
Sanjay Singh , Sanjay Singh : Lucknow, Mon Dec 08 2008, 02:08 hrs

For the SSB men, this soft-pedalling of the issue is not surprising. The men named in the case were all from SSB post at Bhinga, which had become a thorn in the side of some locally influential people.

An officer pointed out that in August, the state government had withdrawn the SSB's powers of search and seizure and making arrests in border villages following unsubstantiated complaints from certain politicians, including BSP legislator Waris Ali.

In a statement announcing its decision, the government had virtually called the SSB a force of cattle smugglers.

Another officer in the SSB said they were targeted because the SSB's presence hits the economic interest of certain elements. "Further, the smuggling in border areas has got a certain social sanction and is known as 'trade'. The smugglers control the economy as their operations involve a large number of poor people," he said.

Citing an example, he said Lakhimpur district saw a protest by traders in June against an alleged assault on the family members of a trader near Palia. But the real issue was a crackdown on smuggling from Gauri Fanta market, which is located close to Nepal border.

The officer said that there was no Indian village near Gauri Fanta which "feeds only the Nepalese". Any checking or restriction, therefore, invites the ire of traders.

The Nepal border is also used for a lot of other undesirable activities and the SSB, under its charter of duties, is expected to check such activities, he said.
The Deputy Inspector General of SSB, Anil Agrawal, refused to comment on such incidents or the framing of his men in a false case. "We are trying to ascertain the identity of those involved in the Shrawasti incident," he said, "we will take legal action against them."