

Defence Budget of Pakistan

*882. Shri Atam Das:
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Srichand Goel:
Shri Yajna Devi Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is spending more than 50 per cent of her revenues on Defence,

(b) if so, whether Government of India propose to increase their Defence Budget keeping in view the increase in the Pakistan Defence Budget; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) without a precise indication of the items included in the Defence budget of Pakistan it is not possible to work out an exact proportion but at the basis of estimates the position appears broadly to be correct.

(b) and (c). The Defence budget of Government of India is based on our own assessment of the needs

Issue of Pakhtoonistan

*883. Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri M. L. Sondhi:
Shri Nathu Ram Akirwar:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to raise the issue of Pakhtoonistan in the United Nations;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) to (c) Government of India are aware of the desire of certain individuals and groups that this issue may be taken up in inter-

national forums. Government do not however, propose to do so

Indian Hostel in Jerusalem destroyed by Israeli Forces

*885. Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
Shri Y. S. Kushwah:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian hostel in Jerusalem has been destroyed by the Israeli forces during the recent conflict in West Asia, and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government for the restoration of the hostel?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) According to reports, the Indian Hospice in Jerusalem was severely damaged by Israeli shelling during the conflict in West Asia

(b) This matter will be considered after the situation normalises in West Asia

Farakka Barrage Project

*886. Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Gopal Shrivastava:
Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:
Shri G. C. Dixit:
Shri Vasudevan Nair.
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Nihal Singh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Pakistani Foreign Minister that his country would take definite steps to restrain India from going ahead with the construction of the Farakka Barrage project; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?