

*[English]***Role of Territorial Army**

1419. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decisions taken to augment and assign a more effective role to Territorial Army, in the light of the recommendations made by Third Territorial Army Review Committee; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Territorial Army Review Committee headed by Shri K.P. Singh Deo which was submitted to the Government in August, 1996 was circulated to the three Services Headquarters of the Armed forces as well as to the Department of Personnel & Training with a view to eliciting their views on the various recommendations. The views of the Services Headquarters have been received recently. There are varying views expressed by the Services Headquarters on recommendations contained in the Report which will necessitate further consultations. A final decision in the matter can be taken only after such consultations have been completed.

*[Translation]***Manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft**

1420. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to manufacture light combat aircraft;

(b) if so, by when and the number of such aircrafts likely to be manufactured each year;

(c) the scheduled date for the first flight of light combat aircraft; and

(d) whether it is likely to be delayed and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) production is expected to commence in 2002, to meet the requirements of Air Force, in a phased manner. However, it is not in public interest to disclose this quantitative information.

(c) The scheduled date for first development flight is November, 1997

(d) The programme is progressing as planned.

*[Translation]***Water Logging in Canal and Irrigated Areas**

1421. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Command Area Development Authorities have not responded to the problems of water logging in canals and irrigated areas;

(b) whether several areas have become barren as a result thereof:

(c) whether the Government have not been able to utilise the services of experts to solve the problem due to lack of coordination between the Ministry and Indian Agricultural Research Council; and

(d) the measures taken to have a coordinated approach to reduce the problem of water logging?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Command Area Development Authorities have been taking up various CAD activities in the irrigated command areas to check waterlogging. The Ministry of Water Resources have recently included a new component "Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas in Irrigated Commands" under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme to tackle the problem of waterlogging where Centre and State Governments will share the expenditure on reclamation of such lands.

(b) As a result of waterlogging, productivity of crops in the certain command areas has been adversely affected. However, the extent of loss thus caused has not been studied so far. An estimate made in 1991 by the Working Group constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources on problem identification in irrigated areas assessed that 2.46 million hectare area has been affected by waterlogging.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have close coordination in implementing the Command Area Development Programme including tackling of the problem of waterlogging.

(d) A Manual on "Reclamation of Waterlogged, saline and alkaline lands" has been prepared during 1995-96 with the help of Central Soil Salinity Research Station, Karnal an Institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). A Workshop was organised on "Reclamation of Waterlogged, Saline and Alkaline lands and prevention thereof" on 26-27th December, 1996 by the Ministry of Water Resources, which was held in close coordination with scientists from ICAR. Besides these, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is represented invariably in all fora related with policy making or implementation of Command Area Development Programme including the problem of waterlogging.