

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that incident had occurred due to the mistake of the Saudi Arabian Aircraft crew. I would like to know, why then the Indian Approach Controller and the Tower Controller have been punished. Is it because of the fact that some mistakes have also been detected on the part of the Indian Controllers? If so, what are the mistakes that they have committed?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the IAF had contact between Tambaram and Chennai and the Saudi Boeing had no direct contact with the IAF at Tambaram. The IAF informed Chennai thrice that it not running properly on the runway. After that proper information has not been given. Therefore, it was removed.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : May I know whether the Saudi Arabian Government have been requested to send only those pilots who are well conversant with the language on international routes?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Request in this regard has not been made. Saudi Arab took this decision on its own.

Border Firing

*64. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control as also the International Border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of incidents of firing by Pakistani troops during 1996 and in the current year along the LOC and International Border separately;

(c) the number of civilians, men of the security forces killed and injured because of firing from across of LOC and across the International Border; and

(d) the number of UN observers operating/posted in J&K and their role?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There has been no increase in the intensity of firing from across the Line of Control in J&K during 1997 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996. However intensity of firing by Pak Rangers along the International Border in J&K has considerably increased during 1997 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996. The total number of incidents of firing along the Line of Control (LOC) and International Border (IB) during the year 1996 was 2949 and 170 respectively. As against this, during the last seven months of 1997, there were 1056 incidents of firings on the LOC and 137 incidents on the IB. The details of casualties suffered by us during these firings along the LOC and IB portion of J&K during 1996 and 1997 are as follows:—

	Army		BSF		Civilians	
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded
(a) LOC						
(i) 1996	19	118	02	04	15	38
(ii) 1997	03	23	—	03	03	10
(b) IB						
(i) 1996	—	—	—	06	03	05
(ii) 1997	02	07	02	08	—	08

2. The number of UN observers in J&K at present is 11. This number keeps on varying. After Simla agreement, India does not recognise any role of UN observers in J&K.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Defence Minister has in his reply admitted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of incidents of firing by the Pakistani rangers in 1997 as compared to that of 1996. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why firing by Pakistan at the Indian Border is still going on unchecked and why India is not giving a befitting reply to Pakistan since we say that we are competent enough to protect our country by all means. The people are losing faith and are running away from there in large numbers.

In the second part of my question I would like to know whether we are demoralising the army by giving a

hint that we are holding talks frequently? I would also like to ask the Minister as to why the firing incidents have increased and why the number of those killed and injured is high?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have admitted that there have been more firing incidents now than earlier but it is also a fact that we have retaliated.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is the number of those killed?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have already said in my reply the figures of those killed and injured but so far as the reasons asked by the hon. Member is concerned, I already said that Pakistan has attacked our civilians for the first time after 1971. Two persons were killed and eight were injured. We have also retaliated and since then they have not dared to open fire in Kargil region. It is not right to say that we are not retaliating. By now they might have come to know what our might is after the befitting reply we gave them in Kargil. We believe in peace. If they do not believe in peace then we will give more befitting replies in future.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that from the reply given by the hon. Minister it appears that more number of Army and Border Security Force personnel have been killed on the international border than on the line of actual control and from the reply in comparison it seems that the security arrangements at the international border is weak. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that while holding Prime Minister level and Secretaries level talks with Pakistan has it been conveyed to them that holding talks will be difficult for us if the incidents of firing from their side continues as was recently declared by our Prime Minister during his Srinagar visit. We will not hold talks unless the terrorists stop firing.

Secondly, have more funds been allocated at present to strengthen the security arrangements further at the International border and at the line of actual control and what steps have been taken to strengthen the security arrangement at these places?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as more incidents of heavy firing at the international border is concerned, such incidents are occurring because Pakistan wants to keep this area also as disputed area. Pakistan is not ready to accept it as an international border hence it resorts to firing. But it is wrong to say that this is our weakness. From the figures you might have come to know that more number of Pakistani soldiers have been killed as comparison to our army.

There would be no impact of financial crisis on the border. I have already said that we have given them a befitting reply in Kargil when they resorted to firing on the local people. Since then, no firing incident has taken place there. We believe in peace and talks are going on in this regard. If they do not believe in peace then we would give them a befitting reply.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : I would like to know from the hon. Defence Minister whether on the fertile agriculture lands in the countryside along the international border or the Line of Actual Control (LOC) our farmers carry out their farming work right upto the border, whether it is also a fact that at the time of reaping of the harvest, Pakistan indulges in heavy firing as a result of which our farmers can neither cultivate nor reap the harvest.

I would also like to know whether Pakistan always starts heavy firing, whenever we resume the fencing work at the border. These are not occasional events but have been occurring for past few years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many cattle have been killed and people injured particularly in the four border districts of Jammu, Kathua, Rajauri and Poonch where people can not carry out farming or cultivation of paddy crops. In these circumstances we can not resume fencing work at our borders and he (the Minister) has not taken a decision to do the fencing work a little bit off the border line. Why this display of weakness? Why they do not give Pakistan a befitting reply on the Jammu border just as they did on the Kargil border and do the fencing right on the border line instead of a little bit off that line. Whether by negotiating with the Pakistan or by giving a befitting reply to it, the farmers must be relieved of their daily miseries.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has rightly said that at the time of harvests there is always heavy shelling from the Pakistan side but the same is suitably retaliated also. It is true that at the times the farmers have to suffer losses also. It is also true that whenever we resume the fencing work at the borders, Pakistani troops indulge in heavy and unprovoked firing but it will be wrong to say that we are retreating in order to put up the fencing at some distance off the border line. We shall try to erect the fencing right on the border and the Line of Actual Control.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he knows that at present four to five thousand people have already left their homesteads near the border line, retreated from there and are residing at quite a distance off that line. The hon. Defence Minister said that fencing work was being carried at the borders. But is it not a fact that the material including iron barbed

wire work Rs. 20 crores is lying at the borders for the last two-three years and has totally gone waste because whenever fencing work is started at the borders, Pakistan opens unprovoked and heavy firing. Therefore, he (the Minister) has himself got the fencing work stopped.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have never said that fencing work is being carried out whenever this work is taken up. Pakistan opens heavy firing in a bid to divert the attention of our army and infiltrate its extremists into the Indian territory. That is its main objective in shelling our borders so that peace in Jammu and Kashmir is disturbed. We have not yet taken up the fencing work although the material sent by us for the purpose is lying there. If we take up the fencing work, Pakistan will open heavy firing but we are just waiting that good sense will prevail over it. If it did not mend its ways, we shall take up the fencing work at the border whatever be the outcome.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : How long would you wait, please tell us frankly. The fencing work has been going on for the last three years but has not yet been completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : The Home Minister says that it is proposed to take up the fencing work at the borders but he (the Defence Minister) is saying something else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your point now please take your seat.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Pakistan is not prepared to admit that area as international border which it admitted under the Shimla accord. It says that Kashmir is a disputed area that is why it is indulging in firing.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are waiting for it. After the negotiations, the outcome will be before you.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we recently visited Laddakh. We also visited Siachen Glacier courtesy the Defence Ministry. This has been learnt from the reliable source that this area witnesses firing daily resulting in casualties but the data placed by you are telling a different story and are hard to be believed at the first sight. I am unable to decide whether I should rely on your data or on what I have seen with my own eyes. The hon. Defence Minister is repeatedly stating that there will be no dearth of money and resources but I have seen that our soldiers are fighting in adverse conditions. They need snow scooters but spare parts are not being made available while the Minister says no difficulty will be allowed to come in the way. How should I believe it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is true a fact that firing takes place daily. But the figures given by me are also true. You (the hon. Member) have talked of funds regarding which I would say that there is no shortage of funds.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The same reply has been repeated again and again. The question is entirely different.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please listen to the real thing. Take the example of 'Agni' Missile programme which has been accorded top priority. There is no shortage of funds, therefore, these figures are true.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Representation of Women in Nehru Yuvak Kendras

*65. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Yuvak Kendras have no adequate representation of young women, at various levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir, Adequate representation of young women is ensured in the implementation of various programmes and activities of the Nehru Yuva Kendras. In the formulation of the Annual Action Plan of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan also, emphasis is given to adequate participation of young women in its programmes and activities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Prices of Petroleum Products

*66. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :**
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: