

hardship. Now-a-days when there is flood the people will have to take a round about route. When I raise this matter in the House why does not the Government pay attention to it.

MR. SPEAKER : When the matter is being raised time and again, why do not you pay attention to it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Despite being reminded several times, the State Government does not send the requisite proposal. Than, what can be done in this case.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Members, no doubt, raise the matter time and again, but the Ministers also change very frequently.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : As the Minister has stated that the proposal has not come from the State Government and if the proposal comes, I presume, that his attitude is to immediately check up that proposal and accept that. The second thing is that many proposals of Orissa State are pending with the Government of India. Even in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, the proposals have not been accepted by the Government of India and the share of the State Government from the Central Road Fund has not been given to the State Government. Whatever proposal comes to the Government of India for a share from the Central Road Fund, may I know from the Minister, whether he is going to sanction that money to the State, since the State Government has not received the money for the last three consecutive years?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Let the proposal come and then I will tell you.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : But the proposal is pending before you.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : As far as the Central Road Fund is concerned, we have released certain amount of money to different States. If the fund has not been released, I will look into it. We have

some balance amount left with us, and I will surely look into that.

BORDER INTRUSION BY PAKISTAN ARMY IN SIACHEN SECTOR

*275. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times border intrusions have been committed by the Pakistani army in Siachen sector during the current year;

(b) whether these border intrusions are on the increase in comparison to the past years;

(c) If so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such intrusions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) :

(a) Barring some exchange of fire there have been no attempts by the Pakistan Army to alter the existing status quo of the ground positions in Siachen area during the current year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Our forces are fully trained and equipped to maintain the territorial integrity of the Country.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the border intrusion or the exchange of fire between our forces and the Pakistani forces are more in number in comparison to the other sectors? During the recent years, since these forces are placed in very important strategical positions from both the points of view, have specific or special steps been taken to see that this portion is well-protected and more number of border violations do not take place in the interest of the security of our country?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The hon. Member's question is regarding the intrusion about which I have answered that there has not been intrusion or any tangible attempt to take over our positions by the enemy. There have been sporadic exchanges of fire. I would not be able to give the statistics of the exchange of fire in our various fronts. I can only say that we have sufficient troops and we have sufficient capability and preparedness to protect our positions in Siachen.

My hon. Cabinet Minister Raksha Mantri has recently made a familiarisation visit to the glacier area and the morale of our troops is the highest. The exchange of fire is also confined to the line of control in J&K as well as in Siachen and not in the other sectors.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : It is good that the hon. Minister of Defence has taken adequate measures in this sphere. May I ask the hon. Minister whether these border violations or intrusions from the other side into the J&K have taken place to create law and order problem in the State? As far as J&K is concerned, it is reported in the Press that many people are coming over to the State to create law and order problem and to create instability in the country from Pakistan and the Pakistani forces are there to create these conditions and that is why firing has taken place because a number of militants have crossed over to J&K.

When our Hon. Minister of Defence visited the glacier area has he talked to the personnel posted there to see that these violations are contained, our border is well protected and the militants do not cross over to J&K?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Our Defence forces have been suitably deployed to effectively curb infiltration and exfiltration across the line of control and the international border in J&K. A total of 1365 infiltrators were apprehended from January 1990 to June 1991 along the international border/line of control in J&K. A total of 464 infiltrators were killed in the course of the interception during this period along the international border or line of control in J&K.

So, as far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, we believe that we are taking adequate measures in this sector to prevent infiltration. As far as the other sectors are concerned, the infiltration is checked by the para-military forces under the control of the Home Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to raise the morale and spirits of our troops deployed in strategic areas like Siachen, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Ministry is intending to send a Parliamentary team to the area so as to take stock of their hardship and ultimately remove them on the basis of recommendations of the team. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The Raksha Mantri has already visited that area. Hon. Member's suggestion will be considered by the Government and I shall put it up to my Cabinet Minister when he returns from tour.

MR. SPEAKER : But then, we will allow only those—if you decide—who are able-bodied.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI : Sir, in Siachen area a large number of casualties take place—apart from any intrusion and firing from across the border—due to the harsh climatic conditions. I am sure the Minister would be able to get the figures about the damage caused to the human lives both in terms of death as well as disability. They are extremely large due to the natural conditions, that is climatic conditions. What is the Government doing or proposes to do to ensure that large number of casualties do not take place and people do not suffer injuries because of the climatic conditions?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, in public interest I will not be able to disclose the number or nature of casualties in such a vital sector of defence. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: He is all right.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I will generally say that because of the harsh climatic conditions, the hostile terrain and the sub-zero temperatures under which our troops operate, the casualties are on the heavier side. But our assessment is that the casualties on the other side, the Pak side are heavier, even though we are not able to prove it by figures. So, that is our assessment. In order to reduce the number of casualties, our troops have been given special snow clothing, rations, equipment, special type of tents, snow-mobiles, etc. and our effort is to see that, in the circumstances, we look after our troops to the very best possible extent.

ECONOMY IN MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS

*276. SHRI RAM KAPSE :

SHRI V. N. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a pressing need to adopt severe economy measures by the Ministries and Departments of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to encourage them to come forward with their own schemes under which economy in public expenditure can be attempted; and

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint a study team Ministry-wise, to go into the question of economy in expenditure as a continuous and on-going process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b): Yes Sir. The Ministries/Departments have been advised to prioritise their activities and schemes both on the Plan and non-Plan side; and identify those schemes and activities which can be eliminated or reduced in size.

(c) Keeping expenditure under control is a continuing exercise. Instructions are issued from time to time regarding specific measures required to be taken to effect economy in expenditure or to avoid waste-

ful or unnecessary expenditure. There is no specific proposal to appoint a Study Team to go into the question of economy in expenditure.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that instructions were already issued. I would like to know this from him: Did those instructions about minimising the use of diesel and on foreign tours, which were given only last year produce any results? You might be knowing that there is a movement going on in Maharashtra against....

MR. SPEAKER: No, you do not mention that. You leave it.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I will not mention the specific movement. But, that movement is going on in Maharashtra asking them to curtail the expenditure on foreign tours by the dignitaries, led by the Editor of *Lok Satta*. You might be knowing it. So, there is a movement—a people's movement—saying that the Government should minimise expenditure on foreign tours or on diesel and you have been giving instructions. Last year also you have given those instructions. So, I would like to know whether they were adhered to.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Instructions have been issued by hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister also. There was a meeting called by the Secretary (Expenditure). He called all the Secretaries and issued the instructions. There is also a restriction for going abroad. The restriction is that only those persons are allowed to go abroad who have to get some foreign aid or if some foreign transactions are to be done. So instructions have been issued accordingly.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I had put a specific question about diesel last year. I had put the question to Shri George Fernandes when he was the Railway Minister. At that time, I had specifically asked this question about the Railways. But he did not give any information on that. Have you got any information as to how the departments reacted to your instructions about minimising diesel expenditure?