

[English]

Sinking of SDB in the Palk Bay

359. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sea Ward Defence Boat (SDB) deployed for patrolling in the Palk Bay sank sometime in December, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the inquiry conducted into the circumstances leading to the sinking of the vessel; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, a Sea Ward Defence Boat deployed for patrolling in the Palk Bay, dragged for anchor and ran aground on the night of 11/12th December, 1990, due to rough weather. The boat was later hauled out and is presently at berth in Visakhapatnam. There were no casualties/injuries during this incident. A Board of Inquiry has been instituted to establish the causes of the incident and assess the damage to the vessel.

[Translation]

Missing Kar Sevaks in Ayodhya

360. SHRI HARISH PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 44 on January, 9, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the investigation conducted about six persons reported at P.S. Kotwali, Ayodhya, as missing has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

IRBM Technology Demonstrator

361. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether our neighbours possess surface to surface and Air to Surface missiles which makes this country vulnerable;

(b) if so, whether there are plans to convert technology demonstrator "Agni", into a deployable system; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to go ahead with the planned second and subsequent tests of the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) technology demonstrator in the interest of defence preparedness of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH): (a) As per published reports, China has such systems and other neighbour has been trying to procure such missiles.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose the flight test plans for technology demonstrator AGNI, at this stage.

Missiles Developed by India

362. SHRIDILEEP SINGH BHURIA: SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: