

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) The European Management Forum in Geneva had invited Commerce Minister to attend an informal gathering of Ministers in Lausanne from 4th to 6th November, 1983 to a general discussion on World Trade Issues. In view of his previous engagements he expressed his inability to attend the meeting.

**Casualties of Unarmed Civilians of GREF during Indo-Pak and Indo-China Conflicts**

1740. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR :  
SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the GREF provided support to the Army during the Indo-China conflicts of 1962 and Indo-Pakistan conflicts of 1965 and 1971 ;

(b) whether the tasks which are to be carried out by GREF, comprise not only maintenance of strategic roads but also support for the operational plans of the Army in place of Army Engineer Regiments;

(c) if so, the details of the casualties of unarmed civilians of GREF during each conflict and how were they compensated suitably ;

(d) under what authority the unarmed GREF employees were deployed with the Army without any armed training and without any training of self-defence ;

(e) whether Border Roads Organisation under which GREF is functioning, being an independent Government department, was the deployment of GREF during different conflicts brought to the knowledge of the House if so, reference thereof ; and

(f) whether Government propose to realise the necessity of the requirement of arms training to the GREF and provide the same with immediate effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The tasks assigned to the

General Reserve Engineer Force are in the nature of construction and maintenance of roads and tracks, Advanced Landing Grounds and Helipads and other civil construction works. For these tasks, General Reserve Engineer Force are deployed behind Army lines in the rear areas in the communication zones, and not in actual combat zones. Considering such role and deployment of General Reserve Engineer Force, there is no requirement to impart arms training to the Force.

The details of General Reserve Engineer Force casualties during each of these conflicts are furnished hereunder :

S. No.	Details	Killed	Believed Killed	Total
1.	India-China Conflict, 1962.	12	4	16
2.	Indo-Pak Conflict, 1965.	11	—	11
3.	Indo-Pak Conflict, 1971.	4	—	4
Total :		27	4	31

In respect of General Reserve Engineer Force casualties of these conflicts (including personnel covered by Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923) liberalised pensionary and other benefits such as war injury pension, family pension, dependent pension, children allowance, children education allowance, family gratuity, as admissible under Government orders, have been extended.

**Report of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and India's Gross Domestic Product**

1741. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's gross domestic product may come down to about two per cent in 1983 from eight per cent and 5.2 per cent respectively in the previous two years ;

(b) if so, whether this is not encouraging enough as the Indian economy may be stronger than what it was in 1979 ;

(c) if so, whether this was revealed in the annual report of the International Bank

for Reconstruction and Development for 1983 which provides little hope for increased concessional lending to India ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the report concedes that the terms of aid to India from the bank have hardened ; and

(e) if so, the other main features of the report and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) In the World Bank's Annual Report 1983, the portion dealing with India has inter-alia stated as follows :—

“This combination will bring down the economy wide rate of growth in gross domestic product (GDP) to around 2 per cent, as compared with 8 per cent and 5.2 per cent in the previous two years. While somewhat disappointing, the performance of the Indian economy in fiscal 1983 was significantly stronger than that which followed the 1979 drought ; then, foodgrains production was 109 million tons, and GDP fell by about 5.5 per cent.”

The report goes on to state : “Terms of aid from the World Bank, in particular, have hardened, resulting from the increasing share of IBRD lending relative to that of IDA.”

Government's views on the performance of the economy are placed before Parliament from time to time.

(e) The Annual Report of the World Bank is essentially a review of the Bank's activity during the year in question and therefore, focuses primarily on details of the Bank's operations which also contains brief comments on the global economic scene and on the economic situation of some of the Bank's borrowers. It is not customary for the Government to react to the Annual Report of the World Bank.

**Casualties of Civilians of G.R.E.F. deployed during Disturbance in Mizoram and Assam**

1742. SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR :

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the civilians of GREF were deployed with Army in aid of civil-power in the States during disturbances of 1966 in Mizoram and that of Assam in 1980-81 ;

(b) if so, under what law in accordance with the Article 246 of the Constitution read with Item 2A, List I, Union List, GREF was deployed in aid of civil power in the States ;

(c) if no law had empowered such deployment, who is responsible for the loss of the lives of civilians of GREF caused during such deployment ; and

(d) the details of the casualties during such deployment and the benefits extended to the affected employees by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (d) In 1980-81, 400 pioneers and 70 drivers of G.R.E.F. were placed under the command of the Army for deployment in connection with the operation of oil pipelines, petrol installations, etc., in Assam in aid of civil administration. During the aforesaid deployment, G.R.E.F. did not suffer any casualties.

The General Reserve Engineer Force is a force raised and maintained under the authority of the Central Government for the construction of roads in the Border areas and such other tasks, as may be entrusted to it. Therefore, deployment of the Force with the Army in aid of Civil administration in Assam in 1980-81 was in conformity with its role and functions.

**Request from Employees Working in Armed Forces Headquarters for Alteration in Date of Birth**

1743. SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many employees working in the Armed Forces Headquarters requested for alteration in their dates of birth during the last five years ;

(b) in how many cases, was the date of birth changed ; and

(c) what are the orders on the change in date of birth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE