

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Possession of the State Government land measuring 133 Bighas 12 Biswas (29 acres) in Village Kumsu of Simla Distt. has been taken over by Ministry of Defence on 09.09.94. In respect of private land measuring 1259 Bighas 16 Biswas in Village Averi Tehsil, an award of Rs. 10,18,99,548 has been paid by Ministry of Defence to the Land Acquisition Collector, Anni for disbursement to the ex-land owners. There is no proposal for acquisition of any land at Una or Hamirpur district in Himachal Pradesh at present.

(d) The present policy of the Government is to set up Military station and not Cantonment.

[English]

Terrorist outfits in N.E. Regions

735. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army authorities have stated that the North-East is the biggest trouble-spot of the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the ISI activities have also increased in these States; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Keeping in view its strategic location as also the fact that a number of States in the region are affected by insurgency, the region is sensitive.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the ISI's activities in the region. All necessary measures are being taken.

Investigation against Top Defence Personnel

736. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. RAVI MALLU :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered an investigation against top defence services personnel in Army, Air Force and Navy as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated October 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the senior defence services personnel have protested against such move; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) There was some resentment over a perceived slight due to a routine security check carried out by the appropriate agencies in response to a letter which emanated from the Armed Forces calling for verification of names of persons scheduled to attend the Combined Commanders Conference which was addressed, among others, by Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri. This incident in no way affected the high esteem and regard with which the Chiefs of the Armed Forces and other Service personnel are held in the country.

Non-Implementation of Rural Programmes

737. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-implementation of several Government sponsored rural programmes are taking place in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of hurdles to implement the scheme like Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Marketing of products produced by DWCRA groups has been identified as one of the problems faced in the implementation of DWCRA programme. Forward and backward linkages are not adequate to implement the programme.

Inclusion of Railway Division in East Coast Railway

738. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway divisions originally proposed to be included in the newly formed East Coast Railway;

(b) the reasons for non-inclusion of those in the East Coast Railway;