

(a) whether the Indian Military and Security Forces in J & K have to face difficulties in fighting against terrorists due to shortage of sophisticated weapons; and

(b) if so, the correlative steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Terrorists, in J&K, are equipped with the State-of-the-art weapon systems. There is, thus, requirement of modern weapon system and equipment, specific to effort for countering the Proxy War, there. The Army has been progressively upgrading its Counter Insurgency weapons and equipment. A comprehensive J&K Action plan has been drawn up, in this behalf.

Construction of ROB/RUB in Andhra Pradesh

3447. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for construction of road over bridges/road under bridges in Andhra Pradesh, particularly at Kothapatnam railway crossing in Ongole town;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. But no formal proposal has been received for construction of Road Over Bridge at Kothapatnam.

(b) The following proposals for construction of ROB/s/RUBs were received:

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| 1. Bayyavaram | ROB at Km. 734/11-12 |
| 2. Narasarao Pet | ROB at Km. 630/6-7 |
| 3. Mahabubabad | ROB at Km. 437/27-28 |
| 4. Khammam | ROB at Km. 484/27-28 |

5. Kakinada-Kathipudi (Pithapuram) ROB at Km. 638/12-13

6. Hafeezpet ROB at Km. 165/13-14

(c) Out of above, following works have been included in the Works Programme of 1999-2000.

1. Bayyavaram
2. Mahabubabad
3. Khammam
4. Kakinada - Kathipudi (Pithapuram)

Direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore

3448. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Visual Technology for Soldiers in Darkness

3449. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been developing a technology enabling the soldiers to see clearly in pitch dark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this technology is expected to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) DRDO have developed a number of technologies to enable the soldiers to see clearly during the darkness. These technologies include active infra-red, passive night vision and thermal imaging. Based on these technologies, a series of night vision devices have been developed by DRDO, introduced into