

Encroachment on Defence Land

3467. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale encroachments on defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) While there have been some reports of encroachments on Defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment, sustained efforts are on to get the encroachments removed. The assistance of the State Government of Maharashtra has also been sought by the local authorities in this regard.

Secret behind Pak Firing in Kargil

3468. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army experts have come to the conclusion that secret behind and accuracy of Pakistani firing during sometime in November, December 1998 in Uri and Kargil was directed by some one in India;

(b) if so, whether some arrests were made and found that the Telephone Exchange in the Kargil area had directed the firing;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Army had demanded screening of the staff of the Telephone Exchange; and

(e) if so; the outcome of the enquiry held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Pakistan ISI agents in Kargil are suspected to be behind the accuracy of Pakistani firing in the Uri-Kargil sector recently. However, specific information about suspects is not available.

The local civil administration and police have been informed to be on the lookout for such individuals.

Technical Clearance for M.R.T.S.

3469. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical clearance for implementing Metro Rail Transit System at Delhi has been given;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and impact thereof;

(d) the amount spent on the preliminary work of MRTS so far; and

(e) the stand taken by the Government on the implementation of MRTS in Delhi?

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) to (c) Delhi MRTS Phase-I is a sanctioned project. Technical clearance has been given in respect of Gauge, Loading standards, Broad Gauge Schedule of Dimensions as per sanctioned Detailed Project Report, Traction System for Metro corridor, etc.

(d) Rs. 266.47 crore upto February, 1999, including investment of Rs. 211 crore on land acquisition.

(e) Delhi MRTS Phase-I is being implemented by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) subject to necessary technical clearances from the Ministry of Railways, the administrative control being with the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

Withdrawal of Armed Forces from J&K

3470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan, there has been a decline in Pakistani firing at Jammu and Kashmir borders;

(b) if so, the extent to which the border in J&K has remained silent after the visit; and

(c) whether in view of the modified situation the Government are considering to withdraw the armed forces from J&K?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no perceptible change in Pak firing after the visit of the PM to Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise.

Ammunitions for Small Arms

3471. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the ammunitions used in manufacturing of small arms for Indian Army are being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any move to develop these ammunitions indigenously;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction so far;

(d) whether ammunition factory at Khadki has got any success in developing ammunitions for small arms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No ammunition is used in manufacturing of small weapons. Ammunition is, however, required for testing small arms and is being manufactured indigenously.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) and (e) Ammunition Factory, Khadki (AFK) manufactures a variety of small arms ammunitions including 5.56 mm ammunition, recently inducted in the Army. AFK have undertaken development of AK-47 ammunition as per the draft GSQR and a batch of 5000 rounds is due to be taken up for user trials shortly.

Titles of Newspapers and Periodicals

3472. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of newspaper and periodical titles are blocked by the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to de-block all the publication titles which are not being used by the applicants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with criteria for de-blocking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per records of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), the number of titles verified upto 28.2.1999 is estimated to be 2.63 lakh. Out of these, the number of titles registered is 48,000.

(c) and (d) Owners/publishers of the titles of newspapers/periodicals who had got their titles verified till 31.12.1995 but not registered them with RNI till 31.10.1998 were given public notices inviting objections/representations as to why their titles should not be de-blocked. In case of about 1.70 lakh such titles, no objections/representations were received and they were de-blocked accordingly. Similar procedure/criteria is to be followed on year to year basis.

[Translation]

New Flights from Sanganer Airport

3473. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities for which flights are available from Sanganer airport located near Jaipur at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of these flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to start air services for some few cities from Sanganer airport; and