

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM J & K
C. KUPPUSAMI;MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided for phased withdrawal of additional forces sent to J&K during `Operation Vijay` in Kargil two years ago, to shore up peace initiative;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such a gesture is reciprocated by Pakistan as confidence-building-measures and it has also withdrawn its certain troops from Indo-Pak border like-wise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether surveillance and collection of intelligence is proposed to be stepped up to keep a vigil on the border; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) & (b): Some additional forces deployed in Kargil during Operation VIJAY were withdrawn after the termination of the Operation and after a careful evaluation of the prevailing operational situation.
- (c) & (d): There are reports to the effect that consequent to Pakistan`s announcement of partial withdrawal of troops during the third week of December, 2000, certain reserve formations and some formations undergoing training in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir moved to their permanent locations. There are, however, no confirmed inputs to suggest reduction/withdrawal of troops physically deployed on the Line Of Control.
- (e) & (f): All appropriate steps to maintain full alertness continue to be taken.