

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:876
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
STATUS OF RASHTRIYA RIFLES
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the status of Rashtriya Rifles raised to fight insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir has not been clearly defined;
- (b) if so, whether the RR batallions are presently clubbed with the Territorial Army (TA) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) which are non-field forces;
- (c) if so, whether the Government propose to clearly define the role of RR so as to avoid any problem with regard to operational command in the counter insurgency grid; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) The Rashtriya Rifles (RR) was raised in 1990 as a para - military force under the operational command of the army and the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, with a clearly defined role for discharging the functions of rear area security, counter insurgency operations, maintenance of law and order & aid to civil authorities and augmentation of the field force during war-like situations.
- (b) In view of specialised operational role of RR given above, they can not be clubbed with the Territorial Army (TA) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC). However, the strength of TA, NCC and RR are over and above the manpower authorisation of the regular army.
- (c) & (d): The role of the RR is clearly defined and there has been no problem as regards operational command of Rashtriya Rifles in the counter insurgency grid.