

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1957
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
VISIT OF BRITISH DEFENCE MINISTER
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of discussions held recently between him and British Defence Minister in Delhi;
- (b) the details of agreements signed between the two countries;
- (c) whether the two also discussed about the long due Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) deal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the views of the British Defence Minister on the terrorists activities carried out in Kashmir by Pakistan and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): The Secretary of State for Defence, U.K., Mr. Geoffrey Hoon visited India on 13th November, 2001 for discussions with Raksha Mantri. The talks covered a wide range of issues of bilateral, regional and international importance. Discussions held included the subject of terrorism and the current situation in Afghanistan. The enhancement of the bilateral defence cooperation relationship between India and the UK was also discussed. In the discussion regarding the procurement of the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) Hawk from the U.K., the Indian side had requested the U.K. Government to assure the continued supply of spares and product support for the AJT if the contract was concluded. The problems relating to supply of spares and product support for equipment presently with the Indian Armed Forces including the clearances of pending export licenses were also discussed. No agreements were signed between the two countries.