

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5140  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000  
FOREIGN VISITS OF SERVICE CHIEFS  
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Chief of Army visited a number of countries recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit alongwith the achievements derived therefrom;
- (c) whether the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force have decided to undertake a series of goodwill visits to various countries; and
- (d) if so, the action-plan formulated therefor? A N S W E R

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5140  
27.4.2000.

The Chief of the Army staff visited the following countries in the recent past:

(i) USA & Honolulu 8 to 17 November 1999

(ii) France 6 to 10 December 1999

(iii) Myanmar 6 & 7 January 2000

(iv) U.K. 6 to 11 March 2000

2. Visits of Service Chiefs to foreign countries at the invitation of their counterparts are undertaken primarily to generate goodwill with friendly foreign countries in the context of our overall national defence policy. Accordingly, Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force will be visiting different foreign countries in the future also after clearance is received from MEA and after mutual consultation with the Armed Forces of the countries to be visited.