

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5196
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
PAKISTAN MASSING TROOPS NEAR KUTCH
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has been reinforcing in the Rann of Kutch area in Gujarat to target India's shore based industry more effectively;
- (b) if so, whether Pakistan also inducted its latest Ukrainian T-80UD tanks in the zone replacing the older Chinese T-85;
- (c) whether Pakistan has also decided to push its Muzahiddin in the zone and around 150 militants have already been sent; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to check the activities of Pakistan massing troops near Rann of Kutch?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Although Pakistan has upgraded its surveillance and air defence system in the Creek and Rann of Kutch area, there are no reports to suggest that these are aimed at targetting India's shore based industry.
- (b) The T-85 tanks are also new and both versions of tanks are issued to the formations opposite Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- (c) Inputs indicate presence of some militants in the area of Keti Bandar, Shah Bandar, Musafirkhana, Nagar Parkar and Mithi. No reports have yet been received about such militants having been inducted into Gujarat.
- (d) Constant vigil is maintained on the border and all appropriate measures have been taken to thwart any attempt of misadventure by Pakistan.