

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2191
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
LAND OCCUPIED BY ARMY ALONG INDO-PAK BORDER
Chhewang Shri Thupstan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large chunk of agricultural land all along Indo-Pak border have been occupied by Army for operational reasons during various wars;
- (b) if so, the area of land under the possession of Army at present;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for handing over such land to their owners; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Approximately 4735 acres of land are still in possession of the Army at present.
- (c) While most of the lands earlier occupied have been handed over to the owners, the remaining lands will be handed over after demining except a small area of land which will be retained for operational requirements.
- (d) As stated in (c) above, a small area of land is required for operational purposes.