GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEFENCE LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1795 ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011 MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE ON BORDER

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increased Chinese military activities/encroachments in the border areas/Line of Actual Control which have threatened the local inhabitants and hindered the development works in the areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of occasions when the Chinese troops have intruded/attempted to intrude into the Indian territory during each of the last three years;
- (c) the details of infrastructure building including highways and tunnels/other constructions works undertaken/railway tracks laid by China in the border areas/border states including Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and also the neighbouring countries;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up these issues with the Chinese Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the details of the infrastructure building works being undertaken by the Government in response thereto and military modernization programmes to match the defence capabilities attained by the neighbouring countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1795 FOR ANSWER ON 7.3.2011

China disputes the International Boundary between India and China. There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. Both sides patrol up to their respective perceptions of LAC. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. The number of such incidents in last three years have generally been as per established pattern.

- 2. It is understood that China is undertaking infrastructure development programme in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) which include construction of roads, railways and airfields. The total road network in TAR is assessed at 58,000 kms in the year 2010. Extension of Qinghai Tibet Railway (OTR) to Xigaze is in progress. Another railway line from Kashgar to Hotan in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is under construction. Five airfields in TAR have become operational (i.e. Gongar, Pangta, Linchi, Hoping and Gar Gunsa).
- 3. Specific cases of infrastructure development by the Chinese in close proximity to the LAC are taken up with their authorities through the established mechanism of Hot Lines, Flag Meeting and Border Personnel Meetings.
- 4. Necessary steps as required have been initiated for ensuring that national security concerns are adequately addressed through development of infrastructure, including rail, roads and forward air fields, as well as operational capabilities of the Armed forces.
- 5. Military capacity enhancement and modernization of armed forces is a dynamic process, which takes into account the cumulative challenges envisaged by the nation. Our infrastructure development, force restructuring and modernization is being implemented in consonance with our threat perception to secure our borders and protect national interests.