

**Title:** Regarding underground nuclear explosion in Pakistan's Chagai Hills Zones on 28th May, 1998. THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian seismic observation centres have recorded at 1546 hours on 28th May, 1998 the event of an underground nuclear explosion in Pakistan's Chagai Hills zone. Observations recorded at multiple centres indicate a likely yield of about ten kiloton TNT equivalent. If there were more tests than one, then the tests were simultaneous and successive tests were of smaller yield than the first one. Our government had anticipated such an event and this was already factored into our planning of our defence strategy. It is, however, unfortunate that Pakistan has chosen to declare the test 'INDIA specific'.

(ends)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Railway Minister will present the Railway Budget for 1998-99.

मेरी टर्न में कोई करेक्शन नहीं है।