

of fishermen are suffering. Sea food exporters are in great distress. I request the Central Government to take up this matter urgently.

(v) **Modernisation of Krishna Irrigation Delta System by providing Central and World Bank Assistance**

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO** (Vijyawada) : Sir, the Krishna Irrigation Delta System under Prakasham Barrage is 130 years old. The present Ayacut is about 15 lakh acres while the Ayacut originally contemplated was about 7 lakh acres. Several main canals are silted up and the bunds eroded. So, water cannot be supplied effectively, delaying the transplantations which is a loss to the nation. Several times, breaches occur in the main canals further worsening the situation. Keeping this dire necessity in view, the Government has set up a modernisation cell which has made an indepth study of the whole issue and prepared detailed plan and estimates for modernisation of Krishna Delta system at an estimated cost of Rs. 92 crores. As the State Government finances are not available, I request the Union Government to provide these funds or expose the scheme to the World Bank aid or foreign assistance and see that the scheme is taken up at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

(vi) **Allotment of land to landless farmers of Ganganagar district in the Indira Canal region**

**SHRI BIRBAL** (Ganganagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the landless people of Ganganagar should be allotted land in the Indira Canal area. The land allotment rules framed by the Rajasthan Government provide for allotment of land in a district to the landless in that district first and then to the landless of the other districts of the State. The land near the Indira Canal in the Ganganagar district has been given to the persons displaced by Pong Dam, whose number is quite large, whereas the land should have been equally distributed among the various districts through which the Canal passes. In the Ganganagar district where Jetsar Farm has been established, there is also the Suratgarh Farm spread over thousands of acres of land in which the Rajasthan Government or the

Government of India have their interest. The Forest Department has been established in Kishanpura village on thousands of acres of land adjacent to Hanumangarh in this district. It is a border district and many cantonments and airfields have been constructed there for security reasons for which purpose a very large tract of land in this district has been acquired, though it is a matter of concern for the whole of the country. The waters of the Ghaghra river also flow through this district but by constructing Ghaghra Flood Control a large area of Government land which could be given to the landless, has become barren. The Former feudal lords have been allotted land in this district. Graduates in agriculture have also been given land in this district. For a variety of reasons no landless person of this district has been able to get land there. They can take land in all the other districts of Rajasthan equally on a proportionate basis.

I, therefore, request the Government of India that keeping in view the above facts, the Government land in the Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts should first be allotted to the landless of the Ganganagar district so that this problem may be solved.

13.53 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
 (GENERAL), 1985-86—*Contd.*

Ministry of Defence—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Brahma Dutt.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT** (Tehri Garwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time. It is a matter of pleasure that we had the opportunity to hear the views of some ex-servicemen and officers during the course of the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. For this, I congratulate the leader of my party, who gave them representation in both the

Houses of Parliament. We shall have to view national security and national development side by side. In 1960, the Prime Minister of our country and the builder of our nation, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, had said:—

[English]

“Defence is not an isolated matter now. It is intimately connected with industrial aspect and economic aspect and many other aspects of the country.”

[Translation]

Therefore, it becomes necessary that we should consider it in the total perspective. History also tells us that it is essential to involve the people in the security of the country. Long ago when the French Revolution took place, the powers in Europe tried to suppress it, but the people of France made it a success. After 1917, when the Revolution took place in Russia, all the imperialistic forces tried to crush it, but the people and the peasants faced the forces of General Denkin. Therefore, we must strengthen civil defence in our country. Sometimes it becomes a matter of concern for us and in the prevailing international situation, we should develop our border areas whatever it be from the Rann of Kutch to Rajasthan or Kashmir or it extends from Himachal Pradesh, U.P. or Sikkim to the Eastern Sector. This entire 500 km. wide belt must be developed in particular and the desert area of Rajasthan and the Himalayan region should be covered by it. We should make them prosper and provide them with all the amenities to keep them satisfied, because the safety of our borders will depend on the prosperity and contentment of the people of the border areas. This will also help us to keep a check on spying, anti-social activities and military activities near our borders. Moreover, we shall have to make our defence arrangements in the light of the international situation. It is a matter of concern that neo-Colonialism and neo-imperialism have again raised their ugly heads after the Second World War. How much concerned they are in this matter is clear from the recent statements of the experts of America, their former and present

Secretary of State that after the Second World War, America has strengthened its position in Asia and one of the reasons is that China, which used to be their enemy, has now become their strategically. Apart from this, what they had lost in Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, they have now succeeded in gaining in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. We should take all these matters into account and we are deeply concerned about it. Recently, our Prime Minister rightly posed a question to the Army Commanders that “after all, what is the purpose of acquisition of sophisticated arms which are finding their way into Pakistan, whether they are the latest missiles or submarines or naval ships?” These are being acquired to be used against us. Therefore, we must modernise our Navy, Army and Air Force.

It is a matter of pleasure that after concentrating on preparation of plans for our economic development since 1950, we also started our defence planning after 1964. Our Defence Minister is of the opinion that there should be a perspective planning for 15 years and we should accelerate the pace of modernisation and increase our defence production and there should be capacity utilisation to the full. Besides, more attention should be paid to research and development. We are surprised to note that out of a total budget of Rs. 9,216 crores, about Rs. 523 crores have been earmarked for pension and thus we are left with Rs. 932 crores only for Capital expenditure. More funds should be provided. Then only we shall be able to do all these things.

Another matter of concern is that sufficient number of people and better type of people are not coming forward to join the Army. In 1984, we were short of officers by 10 per cent in comparison with requirement. In my opinion, they are influenced by the prospects after retirement from the Army, Navy or Air Force. Today, there are 44 lakh pensioners and most of them belong the lower ranks, who retire between 35 and 45 years of age. Every year 60,000 persons retire. Many Hon. Members have already referred to it, but I would like to further emphasise that the terms of reference of the Fourth Pay Commission should be amended so that the question of rationalising the pension of these persons,

specially of those old pensioners who were getting less pay at that time and who are in receipt of very little pension, may be referred to the Commission. We should also implement early the judgement given by the Supreme Court and the High Court in this regard. We should constitute permanent statutory committee to consider the rise in price index and recommend relief to be pensioners.

Very good work is being done by the Directorate General of Rehabilitation and it may be further improved. I would like to repeat the statement of Shrimati Indira Gandhi in this House in April, 1981. She had said :

[English]

“Finding alternative occupation for the ex-servicemen is a national responsibility and we do treat this question with a sense of urgency.”

[Translation]

We should keep this in mind. I think a high level committee was constituted to look into the problems of the ex-servicemen which apart from the Central Ministers included Ministers from States, ex-servicemen and secretaries of various Departments. It is my submission that the committee has submitted its report. The fate of this report should not be left in the hands of the officials since the committee included Central Ministers, Ministers from the States and the secretaries of various Departments. The Hon. Defence Minister should himself take a decision on it in consultation with the Prime Minister so that their aspirations could be fulfilled.

Our ex-servicemen are highly disciplined and experienced. Their services can be utilised. I would like to make another point. On many occasions, we have had to call the Army, sometimes to control the riots, and sometimes to restore peace in the riot-hit areas. We should create a peace force for the purpose whose job should be quite distinct from that of the police. The police may look after the work of maintenance of day to day law and order and investigations. But this peace force should be capable of running our power houses,

water works and operating pump houses and help us in maintaining law and order and running the railways in the hour of need. We can deploy this peace force on all these jobs.

In our area Mussoorie, an Economic Task Force is doing very good work. This work should be extended further. There is much to be done in the field of afforestation. A massive programme has been prepared therefor. They can be engaged on this job also.

One thing more can be done. Our Defence Production has increased. Our ordinance factories used to manufacture goods and equipment worth Rs. 15 crores in 1947. Now, in 1984, it has gone up to Rs. 1,000 crores. It is heartening. We should consider setting up an Industrial Development Corporation which may manufacture all the goods and equipment required by our Army and our Navy. We can utilise the services of our ex-servicemen for the purpose.

Then, there is a common complaint that the ex-servicemen desirous of starting their own business and who do not want to move away from their places, face difficulties in drawing their pension from the banks and find it difficult to obtain other assistance from the financial institutions. I would suggest that a Financial Corporation should be set up for all the ex-servicemen with matching contribution by the Centre and the State Governments since it is also the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the State Governments may contribute in proportion to the number of ex-servicemen in their respective State.

I would like to make one more submission. The State Governments had started giving Rs. 50 as pension to the widows of prior to 1964. I have heard and also read somewhere that the Hon. Defence Minister had said that the Centre would contribute half the amount. It is my humble submission that Rs. 50 is too meagre an amount. If the State Governments give Rs. 50 you should also contribute atleast Rs. 50 so that they get a pension of Rs. 100.

I am surprised that on re-employment of our ex-servicemen, their previous services is

not counted. While allotting accommodation, they are told to forego pension and gratuity. It is not just.

I would like to say two three things about the Cantonments. The Cantonment Act was enacted in 1924. It has become obsolete. I come from Dehra Dun. There are two Cantonments there, one at Chakrota and the other at Garhi. The civil areas in these Cantonments are in a miserable condition. These should be made democratic. A totally fresh law should be enacted for the purpose. Otherwise, a state of confrontation between the civil areas and the military areas would develop there.

I agree with Mr. Das Muni that the concept of National Cadet Corps should be enforced with renewed emphasis so that we could get disciplined people.

With these words, I thank the Congress Government for all that they have done since 1947. They have made the country self-reliant in many fields and all the three wings of the Armed Force of our country have become so powerful that no external power dare raise an evil eye on us, but in the context of changing circumstances, we should remain vigilant. There is need to grant more facilities to the Armed Forces personnel to improve their lot after retirement and to better their promotion prospects so that the cream of our country is attracted to military service and the service in the Armed Forces should be the most sought after job.

**PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT** (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. Sir, it is a fact that Panchsheel and Non-alignment are the basis of our foreign policy, but every peace loving nation needs an army to defend its borders, to safeguard its integrity and to maintain internal peace in the country. If we are spending 17 per cent of our present budget allocation on it, it is not only necessary but also inexitable. We want to have friendly relations with our neighbouring countries, but, unfortunately, the intentions of our neighbouring countries are not good. For example, let us take Pakistan. She has talked of negotiated settlement on several occasions but her attitude has been quite contrary to

it. Recently, when our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, met them in Moscow, they adopted a different posture and gave a divergent version in the press interview. Although geographically America is far off from us, yet they have set up a base in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, which is matter of concern to us. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, their policy and approach is quite clear from the recent killings of our fishermen and the Tamilian problem created by them. Our relations with Bangladesh cannot be termed as friendly, because whenever we talk of fencing our border, they oppose it. They have made their intention and policy very clear by pushing their people into our territory and by giving shelter to Mizo hostiles. Sir, I would, therefore, submit that even if we have to curtail all other requirements of ours to provide funds for Defence, it is very much desirable and essential.

Sir, our borders comprise of inaccessible places but the valiant jawans of our Army, Navy and Air Force are steadfast at their posts and with patriotism. There are some rocky places in mountains on high attitude where they have to face blood freezing cold and on the other side there is the blazing desert. We are proud of our disciplined jawans who are braving difficult terrain, dense mountains, marsh land, etc. I would also like to submit that if we do not provide them with the latest and sophisticated weapons, they will not be able to display their optimum valour. Today, we face the biggest danger on our borders from Pakistan. History is witness that whenever Pakistan faced internal strife it turned its guns towards India.

When the Punjab problem arose before us, we were in trouble. Pakistan attacked our Nabra Valley of Ladakh at that very time. This valley is situated between China and Pakistan. They want to occupy it by any means. I would like to say that at that time, our valiant soldiers faced them bravely. Today, Pakistan is busy making an atom bomb. She is getting technical aid from China. Arab countries also give her financial aid. I would like to caution that we have to keep ourselves vigilant under such circumstances, because big power never want any war to be fought on their own lands. They make weaker

countries their target. The example of Israel, Iran and Iraq are before us in this connection. I would also like to say that those big powers may not attack us like this. For this we have to be more alert. Our country is the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement. Previously, our late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, took initiative in this matter and at present Shri Rajiv is holding this position. We should develop expertise in atomic energy by any means to make our country strong. History is witness that Rama and Shiva were also peace-loving. Rama had to use arms to face the enemies. Similarly, Shiva had to open his third eye. I would also like to request that if we look at the map of the world, we shall find how fast the nuclear powers are progressing. The report of U.N.O. states that there are only 15 to 20 countries which possess atomic weapons. Their whole pile up comes to about fifty thousand. So, in view of the nuclear power of those nations, we would also like to possess atomic power by any means. America and Russia possess 75 per cent out of the total atomic weapons today. France, China, Germany, England and Italy are having 22 per cent. I would like to say that no country wants to have an atomic war. They know that if any war is fought with these atomic weapons, neither the earth nor the trees, plants, etc., will survive. So, they want to show us their might by creating a sense of fear of their atomic power. I request that we should also acquire atomic power so that China, which shows Arunachal Pradesh in her map or other such countries which have some *malafide* intentions against us dare not do so. I would also like to say that an appeal for peace has its effect only if it is made by a powerful nation. In this situation, if we are equipped with atomic power, our relations with other countries will automatically be improved. With regard to our atomic explosion at Pokharan, it was stated that it would be used for peaceful purposes. Even then, Pakistan, China and America are propagating that we are making atomic weapons. The Atomic Plant at Tarapur (*Interruptions*) ...Today. America wants that we should sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. But we cannot compromise our freedom and prosperity. I am quite confident that we shall take our country on the path of progress by harnessing atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

We have atomic reactors at Tarapur, Kota or in R.A.P.P., but we have no powerful radars and missiles to protect them in case they are attacked. So I request the Hon. Minister that some special arrangements should be made to protect them, I congratulate the Hon. Minister for modernising the weapons of our Army. But we have to end our reliance on the other countries in this connection. It is, therefore, necessary to give encouragement to all the existing industries in our country. We purchase weapons from other countries and those countries do not supply spare parts for them, resulting in all those weapons becoming useless for us after some time. So, my humble submission is that we should do long-term planning in this connection and we should go ahead with standardised weapons. By standardised weapons I mean those weapons which change their shapes when one is attached with another. We should increase their production. The reason is that if there is any war, it would not be fought on land but in the sky or in water. It is, therefore, necessary to make our Navy and Air Force more powerful.

When we look at our Air Force, we find that we have MIG-23, Jaguar and Mirage-2000, supplied by France whereas Pakistan has F-16 fighter planes. It is a matter of great concern how far these planes of our would be able to face the F-16 planes. The Hon. Minister may please state in detail in his reply the progress made in making our Air Force more powerful and the details of the other plans as well.

As far as the Navy is concerned, Sir, we are lagging far behind in this spheres also and our Vikrant has become outdated. We have no information about the latest submarines and about our plans for making our Navy more powerful. I request the Hon. Minister that we should modernise our Navy and make it more powerful to protect our huge oil deposits at Bombay High. The way Sri Lanka forces have killed some of our fishermen is a clear indication that our coast guard force is not fully capable. Secondly, a strong Navy is also necessary to defend the Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands situated on our borders and also for the defence of our long coast land.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions

to the Hon. Minister. We need not expand our forces too much, but like Israel, whose second line of defence is quite strong, we need to have a powerful second line of defence, which should include Para-military forces, Home Guards, N.C.C. or Border Security force. Secondly, very little has been done for the welfare of our Jawans posted on the borders. There are no two opinions that the responsibility for the welfare of the Jawans lies on both the State and the society. But when our Army man goes back to his home town on leave and wants to take rest and expects peace during this period, he has to face many problems instead. He finds that someone has occupied his land, someone is frightening his family members and his whole time is spent on settling these issues and going time and again to the revenue office. I request the Hon. Minister to issue orders to the State Governments to take upon themselves the responsibility for the security of the family members and the property of the Jawans, because they are the sentinels on our borders. I would like submit that proper arrangements should be made for the education of their children as per the recent declaration of the Government.

Government have declared that every district would have a middle school. Sufficient representation should be given to the children of the army men in these middle schools.

Sir, the condition of our ex-servicemen is very miserable. Their number is quite large and they retire too early. Hence, special attention should be paid for giving them employment. You have so many departments to absorb them in.

The subject of rehabilitation of ex-servicemen is in the State List. It should be included in the Concurrent List, so that work may go on smoothly.

Sir, I would also like to submit that the condition of the war widows is very miserable. We should pay special attention towards the war widows. I would also like to submit that there are 18 military schools in our country. Out of those, one is situated in my constituency, Chittorgarh.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given you five minutes more also. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKAT-WAT : Whatever facilities you provide in these schools, the State Governments have to share the burden of it, with the result that these schools neither receive the facilities as provided by schools run by the State Governments nor as provided by the schools run by the Centre. I, therefore, urge the Government that these schools should be given full facilities.

Lastly, I thank the Minister for having listened to me with attention and thank the Chair for the extra time given to me. With these words, I support the Demands of the Defence Ministry.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. The demands of this Ministry have a special status and importance. It is a happy coincidence that our Hon. Minister of Defence has got the combined experience of three subjects, viz. Home Affairs, External Affairs and Defence. The combination of these three subjects is indeed a happy augury. Therefore we expect that in the present context, when the security and defence of our country is in an alarming situation, he will be able to handle the situation with great efficiency and ability.

I do not like to repeat the points already made on the floor of this House by those who spoke before me. But I would like to highlight a few points which have not been touched upon.

Firstly, the Army has been assisting the Civil Administration all over the country on a number of occasions. The other day our Defence Minister had given the information in this House that in the last financial year, Army had gone to assist the Civil Adminis-

tration as many as 175 times and about 60 per cent of these cases related to the maintenance of law and order. This explains the importance of the Defence Forces today as they are not merely for the defence of the country across the borders, but also for handling situations inside the country, particularly where extremism, insurgency and lawlessness the enemies within raise their ugly heads. I represent a region gripped by insurgency for the last several decades and I represent a State where the Special Armed Forces (Assam, Nagaland, Manipur) Act has been in force for some years. I remember one occasion: It was the middle of the year 1980. A military intelligence officer came to me, perhaps as a part of the programme to meet man. At that time, I was not in Parliament. I was in State politics after having been in the Lok Sabha for two terms. The officer's name I do not recall. He was trying to understand whether the Special Powers (Armed Forces) Act should be imposed in Manipur at all, if so, when it should be done. I said: 'There is no right time for such an imposition. The best thing is not to have it.' He said it was very essential. Ultimately, in spite of protests and opposition, including opposition from the ruling group to which I belonged then also, this came about. It was considered essential. In the beginning, the Army represented a symbol of excesses. Then gradually, after the passage of a few months, there were the signs of revision of methods, change of techniques, and improvement in intelligence.

Then I thought that we should meet the senior commands, to advise them that the military and the Defence forces in the country should be trained, not only to fight the enemies outside and across the border; they should be trained to handle difficult situations in the civilian areas with preparedness and expertise. No two situations are like.

For instance, take Kashmir. Kashmir has a very special situation. What prevails in Kashmir may not be similar to what prevails in Nagaland and Punjab today is in an insurgent State. What is the type of insurgency that we have in Punjab? I do not think it is necessary for me to elaborate on.

In the particular context I am referring to, they were the heydays of the PLA and Pre-Pak in Mainpur, and the Police and the security forces including the Army did not

know whether there should be collective punishment against the whole society or not, although collective punishment did work effectively elsewhere. They had first to en and then learn. But in Manipur, there was a kind of insurgency in which the father is different from the son, the mother different from the daughter, the neighbour from neighbour, meaning thereby that they were all very individual manifestations. And they called it urban insurgency, which was unprecedented. No community is involved, and no entire locality is involved, but individuals organised in their course are involved. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that intelligence should be utilized to the maximum to concentrate army action on genuine suspects. So, the methods and strategies to be utilized in such situations should be different from place to place, and from situation to situation. What I am trying to drive at is that our Army should be given training to handle insurgent situations in different areas, not only through bullets but, through other methods, to decide where collective punishment will work, and where maximum intelligence to single out suspects will work. Different methods are there. They should not work guidingly with the idea that they had been assigned wrong duties.

I am now happy that in Nagaland, in Manipur, in Mizoram and such other places, the Army has contributed to the change, to the improvement in the situation; but at what cost? At the cost of innocent lives and respect for loyal civil population. They made errors leading to killing and harassment to innocent people which ultimately led to the provocation of the entire society unnecessarily. To avoid such situations, our Army, our para-military forces and all the Police forces should have a special cell to handle such situations. They should not complain that they were not for this job.

We have heard of the Bihar incidents which occurred a few days back. The report said that about 25 rounds were fired, and the casualty was 15. What is the implication? It is that the Police forces did not know how to fire to control a civilian mob. Either they wanted to kill everybody, or fire in such a manner that it seemed that it was aimed at particular individuals. This speaks of lack of training and motivation among the Policemen handling such situations. Normally

the angry should have been frightened away through minimum damage. Twenty five rounds were fired and 15 people were killed. This indicates that there has been no sufficient motivation and right training among the Police force. This happens particularly when armed forces handle a situation in a civilian area after provocation in a certain situation. Some members of the armed forces were killed by extremists in Imphal by the end of 1980. This incident hit the headlines in all the national newspapers and received the attention of the Government of India. The army men could not control themselves on provocation. They showed rank indiscipline and lack of self-control. The fact of the situation according was that a few members of the armed forces were killed by extremists according to their report. As a consequence, the entire unit posted near the area of incident became amuck and killed innocent people. It was found out that those who died after the provocation were all innocent people, school teachers and villagers, farmers who had nothing to do with insurgency. After that, some officers were transferred and some effective measures were taken against the faulty officers and jawans it seemed. We do not know what actually happened it was anybody's guess because it did not come in the news. We however understand that some changes in the method and strategy were made to make it more effective and to avoid harassing and killing of the innocents.

We could economise in the use of army and we should adopt a sort of civilian approach instead of military and Police force approach so that the situation can be handled properly without provoking the innocent public and be able to aim at the genuine suspects.

Certain areas of the country are not properly represented in the army. The Defence Minister has made a policy indication that the government is not thinking in terms of raising regiments in the name of States or communities. We will pursue this policy. If you are strict on this, then you have to open recruitment to the existing regiments on a general basis so that certain communities and States in whose name regiments do not exist could be represented. I am referring to my State Manipur and also Mizoram where the railways do not exist, industries have yet to come up. Armed forces and para-military forces are major employment agencies. Apart from

getting employment, recruitment of our young people to these para-military forces should be enhanced so that they should get a chance to be in the national mainstream during service; and after retirement, they bring the spirit of national mainstream and loyalty to the nation after retirement. We should encourage more and more recruitment of the people of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh where employment facilities through industries and railways are not available into the arms forces. Therefore, I would like to suggest, as I have been suggesting on this form on other occasions, that we should have special recruitment rallies so that we can fascinate young people from these areas.

Much has been said about rehabilitation of the retired personnel, retired exservicemen. 35 to 45 age is a point where a man's life begins in many cases. We should not take of rehabilitation. A man of 45 is fit physically and mentally for active service in society. The army should have sufficient arrangement to train other ranks in different crafts so that after retirement they will be able to stand on their own legs. With the help of financial assistance given by the nationalised banks, they can start their business after retirement and can start their fresh lease of life.

To sum up : In view of this present situation, I may request the Hon. Defence Minister to see that, where small communities' representation in the army and para military forces is not adequate, steps should be taken to improve the situation so that these communities get sufficient representation in the army. Secondly the army should improve upon their credibility and efficiency in disturbed areas and thirdly, army should retire with preparedness to stand on their own legs.

[Translation]

\*SHRI A. C. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry to Defence for 1985-86. In the first year of the 7th Five Year Plan we have allocated nearly Rs. 8000 crores for Defence. India is

\*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

a peace-loving nation. Our quest of peace has become an example for other nation to emulate. Yet, in order to protect the country from external aggression and from internal conflicts, we have to strengthen our Armed Forces. As pointed out by the Hon. Lady Member, India is surrounded by inimical countries. While our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi is sending delegations to neighbouring countries to establish good relations, our neighbouring countries are threatening the security of our country. Pakistan is spending 75% of this Budget on Defence. Several hundreds of crores of rupees are being spent in the purchase of sophisticated war-planes with the capacity to carry nuclear missiles. Pakistan has successfully developed nuclear explosion know-how. Whether it is in Punjab or in Assam or in any other part of the country, where there is violent agitation, the hand of Pakistan is seen. Pakistan is instigating and inspirings such agitations in India in order to destabilise the conditions in India. Our neighbour Bangla Desh indulges in shooting spree, when we try to have barbed wire force on our borders. China is going all over the world to purchase arms, ammunitions, war planes with nuclear heads etc. Our Hon. Lady Member referred to the war hysteria of the small country, Sri Lanka. Indian army is not needed. Tamil Nadu Police can subjugate this small nation in one hour. Yet Sri Lanka's anti-Indian stance is becoming violent and virulent. During Bangla Desh War, the Pakistan war planes were allowed to land in Colombo and refuelling facilities were offered by Sri Lanka Government. During his recent visit to Pakistan, President Jayawardhane has indulged in anti-Indian gimmicks, by demanding self-determination for Kashmiris. Sri Lanka has signed a so-called scientific agreement with America mortgaging the entire Sri Lanka coast. It is claimed that Sri Lanka coast will become the centre of scientific research by America. In course of time the Sri Lanka coast will be the American military base. Sri Lanka has entered into agreements with foreign countries for the purchase of modern arms and ammunitions worth one thousand crores. The MOSSAD from Israel and the mercenary force S. A. S. from Britain are training the Sri Lanka soldiers in Gorilla warfare. Again, Trincomalle, the eye-of Indian ocean on the east coast of Sri Lanka has been given on a long lease to U. S. A. by Sri Lankan Government. There are 108 giant

oil tanks in Trincomalle, which also have been given on lease to U. S. A. The entire American 7th Fleet can be fuelled with the petrol stored in these tanks. Besides American war planes can also be re-fuelled here. The U. S. A. has established a high power transmission tower here which can oversee any movement on the Indian Ocean. Whether it is an Indian naval ship or any other country's naval ship moving in Indian ocean can be located from here. Indian navy is confronted with another danger. The naval ships as also any merchant ship which has to go from Bombay to Calcutta, from Cochin to Calcutta or for that matter any ship from Tuticorin to Madras on the East coast itself will have to go around Trincomalle. There is no direct route. The ships from Calcutta to West coast will have to go via Trincomalle. You can imagine the exposure to danger of our ships in times of international crisis in Indian Ocean. Sir. Indian Ocean is going to be war theatre for third world war, according to military strategists of international reputation. The Chief of Southern Naval Command has expressed unequivocally that the only way to avert such a danger to Indian navy is to have Sethusamudram project. The Sethusamudram project should be implemented forthwith as a defence project. 80 years ago even the Britishers had expressed that this Sethusamudram project is of great strategic importance. If unfortunately the third World War erupts, then it will start from Indian Ocean only. As the Defence Minister hails from a southern State, he knows that the Southern States are susceptible to dangers from the sea. They will be the first victims of any such aggression from sea. I requested him that he should strengthen our Indian navy. The Lady-Member who preceded me pointed out that the interests of Navy have been neglected by successive Governments since Independence. 38 years after independence, in the 1985-86 Defence Budget, a sum of Rs. 4787 crores has been allocated for Armed Forces and a sum of Rs. 601 crores for Indian Navy. You will agree with me, Sir, that all the three wings of our Armed Forces should get equal treatment. But Indian Navy has always received step-motherly treatment. When Indian Ocean has become the hotbed of international rivalry and super-power rivalry, our Navy should be in a position to protect the long coast-line of India. So far we have been preparing ourselves for protecting the country from land-

attack from Pakistan or from north-East. Now the danger is looming large from Indian Ocean. The naval security measures are to be tightened. The Indian Navy has to be expanded. Even out of the allocation of Rs. 600 crores, Rs. 500 crores are to be spent in the purchase of stores and in the modernisation of Indian Navy. There is no left for buying new submarines or new war ships for Indian Navy. I urge upon the Minister of Defence to pay attention to the expansion of the Indian Navy immediately.

We should also strengthen our coast-guard. Last week the Sri Lanka vessels entered our territorial waters and arrested about 200 Sri Lanka refugees trying to reach India. Sometime back off-Rameswaram coast, the Sri Lanka Navy arrested India fishermen in our territorial waters. While we have one naval vessel and one plastic boat, near Kacchathivu Sri Lanka has many navy vessels and 15 plastic boats. They enter merrily our territorial waters and plunder our marine wealth and maltreat our fishermen. We should strengthen our coast-guard force. I would suggest that even Kacchathivu Islands should be taken back as to break the backbone of Sri Lanka navy.

In order to have better control, I suggest that a Naval Command should be established at Rameshwaram and another Command at Madras.

Sir, you know the devastation of Japan in Second World war and the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The flourishing towns became crematorium with the explosion of Atom Bombs. Even today these two places are shown as the living monuments for the people of Japan so that they give their best to make Japan the most powerful country in the world. The sense of patriotism is instilled in them. I want that there should be compulsory military training of the youth of our country who have reached 18 years of age. This training may last for two years or at least for one year. The NCC should be made compulsory in all the schools and colleges both for girls and boys. This will bring about the much needed national integration.

Sir, America allocates 30% of its defence budget for research and development. We have allotted just 40% for this purpose. I am not comparing India with America. But I suggest

that at least 10% of the money should be allotted for research and development. Our former Defence Minister had announced the setting up of a Defence industry in public sector in Arakkonam, North Arcot District. I want to know the progress in this regard. Similarly, the ancillary unit to manufacture the electric gadget for Vijayanta tanks should not be taken out of Avadi to some northern State; it should be located only in Avadi. The Naval Training Center was proposed to be set-up in Kolavia in Chengleput. Later it was shifted to Cochin. Now it is not functioning well there. I want that the Naval Training Center should be located in Kolavai, Chengleput. Many Members have referred to the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen who retire at 35 years and 40 years. The officers are enabled to get themselves absorbed here and there. But the soldiers are left to fend for themselves. They should be given loans from public sector banks for self-employment projects. The Ministry should also take personal interest in their rehabilitation.

Sir, our security forces have earned a name for their efficiency and competence. But the assassination of our former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi is really a black mark on their creditable performance in the defence of our country.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I participate in this debate with a lot of sympathy for the Defence Minister. I did not say 'sympathy, I can put myself in his position and understand the inhibitions, the restrictions that are imposed on him. Defence is the one question where we do not wear our heart in our sleeves, we do not put our cards on the table. If we do that, I think that is the ultimate imbecility. But I am motivated for participating in this debate by one question that intrigues my mind, and I would like to put that question to the Defence Minister. He may in his wisdom reply to it, he may, if he thinks it is not in the interest of the security of the country, not reply to it. That question is whether in the present precarious global and regional security situation, we have a military doctrine, You will agree with me that the

security of this country is no longer a question of our involvement with Pakistan. For a long time Pakistan had been our bad boy and that bad boy had acquired new weapons, new capabilities for reasons that we all know. We have to take care of that. But we know the situation in Asia, especially in South Asia. The war of Iran and Iraq continues. Far from its passing out, it has intensified. There is a real danger that the war may spill over into the other Gulf countries interdicting the flow of oil from Gulf areas and thus bring super powers into confrontation with each other.

The situation in Afghanistan continues to be bad. Any moment it may spill over into Pakistan. And if that should happen, America will not be contented merely with giving Pakistanis F-16 or Hawk Eye surveillance planes or side-wind missiles. I think they would be compelled to come into the field themselves in which case we will have a direct confrontation between the two super powers right in our doorstep.

Then down in the Indian Ocean, my friend mentioned who spoke in Tamil a little while ago, that if at all another big war broke out in this world it would be from the Indian Ocean. I would not be that pessimistic, but I would like to pose two questions in regard to the Indian Ocean to the Defence Minister and again I would say it is for him to reply or not to reply. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the United States of America has installed extremely low-key transmitters in their VOA Centre in Sri Lanka; and what is the purpose of these extremely low-key transmitters? They have only one purpose i.e. to monitor the move of the submarines in the area at long distances. And I would also like to know whether these extremely low-key transmitters have a deleterious effect on the health of our coastal people both of India and of Sri Lanka. I would like him also to reply to the question whether it is a fact that the United States has installed in Diego Garcia ground-based optical deep space surveillance system, which they say, can detect a square foot object at a distance of 25,00 miles into space. It means it is the beginning of certain installations in this area for a star war, a strategic defence initiative which the Defence Minister should know very very well.

Now, in this context I would like to

know what is our military doctrine. In view of the fact the Prime Minister said the other day that he had no indication that Pakistan was not going for a nuclear weapon that means a lot. Well, let us put it more positively that Pakistan is going in for a nuclear bomb. It has developed its own nuclear fuel enrichment technique and America is helpless to do anything about it because Pakistan as an ally in the event of a confrontation with the Soviet Union, whenever Afghanistan conflict spills-over to Pakistan, is more important to the United States of America than stopping Pakistan from going nuclear.

In view of this, I would like to know whether we still stick to the position that we develop nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes or whether we keep our nuclear option open.

Sir, I have read that China also is developing a new technique in warfare. The emphasis of the Chinese Army today is on air-to-air re-fuelling which means that China is preparing to fight war on a much larger canvas. If China were to send its warplanes to India, it cannot do it without air re-fuelling. That means the whole of India comes within that space. And you are aware also that a nation that has fore-sworn war as a result of the suffering it had in the last War, Japan also has declared that its policy is to defend the air space and the waterways of Japan up to 1000 miles from the Japanese coast. In view of this, do we have a military doctrine, do we also develop or place emphasis on the development of this facility of air-to-air re-fuelling? What is the role of the Indian Navy? A military commentator the other day said that the Indian Navy is too Indo-centric. That is to say, it confines itself too much to the immediate precincts of the Indian mainland. We have to think in terms of defending not only our 200 miles of exclusive economic zone, where we have our vital installations of oils and other things, but we should be in a certain position to intervene both by sea and by air up to the choke points to the Indian Ocean. Do we have a doctrine by which we develop the capacity to intervene up to the Malacca Straits, up to the Persian Gulf, up to the Red Sea? Do we have those capacities? Do we think in those terms?

This is one part of Defence which calls for a great deal of technology, which calls for a great deal of emphasis, which calls for a great deal of the service and expertise of our professional men in the Army. But I would like to point out to the Defence Minister that there is another aspect. Despite all that we may do, we may have to suffer reverses. What we should do in the case of conflict is not to have a conflict within our own soil. That is the elementary principle of Defence. If at all there is to be a conflict, it should be in another person's territory and not in your territory. But in the event that we suffer reverses...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Two minutes more, Sir, and I will conclude.

That is not the end of the fighting. There has to be resistance within the country and that calls for the involvement of the people of this country. Today, therefore, Defence is not the only matter of the army. May I put it this way that Defence is too serious a matter to be left entirely in the hands of Service-men. Defence is a total effort of the nation and if it comes to that, everything else in the country must take a back seat. How do we involve the people of the country, the young men and women of this country, to defend themselves in such an event? What training are we giving to them? What motivation are we giving to them? This is what I mean when I say whether we have a military doctrine.

I am a good Member, I do not want to take more time since you have rung the bell once. It is for the Defence Ministry again, as I said whether he would reply to my points or if he thinks that it affects the security, I am well-contented. I have done my part, I have placed the matter before you and before the House. Thank you.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants presented by the Hon. Minister. Ours is a peace loving country

and you are aware that we believe in the principle of universal brotherhood and our policies have been framed accordingly.

We are all aware that India does not want to attack any country nor does she believe in capturing even one inch territory of others, at the same time, it is also true that India wants to maintain the unity, integrity and sovereignty of her territory.

15.01 hrs.

[MR. VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN  
in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we look at our budget Demands we find that the Demands presented are within our limits and our expenditure has also been within limits. But if we look at our neighbouring countries, West Asia and the Gulf countries, we find glaring differences. Similarly, if we look at Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, we find that preparations on a war footing are going on. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is my firm opinion that the total loan taken by Pakistan amounts to 11 billion at present. She is amassing military hardware more than she requires and it is also to a great extent true that America which is a super power bestows her blessings on Pakistan. We all know that Pakistan has increased her defence budget from Rs. 433 crores in 1971-72 Rs. by 436.5 per cent in 1982-83. This is a major development and a matter of deep concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that because of America's blessings, Pakistan has been getting a massive quantity of military equipments from time to time. Pakistan has received 11 American destroyers having devastating capability. From the reports in the Press we find that several divisions have been made available to Pakistan at America's expense. There has just been a reference of F-16 aircraft earlier in the House. We all know that the destroying power of F-16 is tremendous. It has a capacity for large scale destruction. We cannot ignore all these developments. The latest equipments, viz. Harpoon and Hokai missiles which are used at night, have become a part of Pakistan's military might. Compared to that, the increase in our Armed Forces is insignificant and the provision made in defence expendi-

ture is very small. I urge upon the Minister that the number of our Armed Forces, artiller, infantry and engineers be adequately increased. I firmly believe that keeping in view the area and population of our country, their number should be increased manifold. Our coast-line is 6080 kilometers, the security of which is the responsibility of our Navy. If you see its budget, it is too small and hardly meets its requirements. Whatever progress we might have made we have not paid adequate attention towards the Navy. The achievements of our Air Force have been commendable. We have been able to acquire Mirage and Jaguar planes. We have been able to phase out the Canberra and Hunter planes and replace them with other planes. It is a matter of satisfaction. However, the planes of our Defence Forces are very old. The world has advanced a lot and we need an Air Force equipped with sophisticated planes. We must make efforts to produce such equipment in the country so that we may not have to depend on foreign powers. Earlier, I have mentioned that we have good tanks, like Vijayanta and M-72 of which we can rightly feel proud. Through you, Sir, I want to submit to the Minister that although efforts are being made to manufacture M. B. T. tank in our country for a long time, yet it might take several years to manufacture the same. In my opinion, we should take effective steps in this direction.

As far as the question of welfare of our defence forces is concerned, adequate attention is being paid. I think the Government for the same. On account of certain anomalies the Government have not been able to take a decision in regard to their pay scales. It is really a matter of great concern. You know that our Armed Forces defend our borders at the time of crisis. Therefore, we must attend to their economic needs. Their pay scales should be correlated with the pay-scales of their civilian counterparts. Personally I feel that they should be paid a salary one and a half times that of their civilian counterparts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards the question of pension and the question of war widows, we must take care of these aspects and look after the personnel of our Armed Forces who distinguish themselves with meritorious service and are awarded 'Vir

Chakra' or are decorated with other honours, and who face a number of problems after retirement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have taken certain steps to manufacture military hardware indigenously. We should pursue it with all seriousness. Since you are ringing the bell I shall be very brief and conclude. We must pay more attention to the public sector undertaking particularly those connected with defence production, who have done good work, and increase their budgetary allocation. The N. C. C. was conceived to serve as a second line of defence. It should be strengthened so that it may serve the role assigned to it in the defence of the country. Our youth should be imparted good training so that they can prove to be good officers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are giving many fringe benefits to our soldiers, such as parade allowance, washing allowance and hair-cutting allowance but let me submit that its quantum is too meagre. It should be increased. Then, we have to think over providing adequate accommodation, as the present rate of satisfaction is about 30 to 40 per cent only. It has to be improved.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence and thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) :**  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, every Indian is proud of our Armed Forces. No other institution of our country seems to be so much disciplined and imbued with the sense of national unity and the spirit of dedication for the nation. Whether it be a matter of the country's defence or of controlling the riots within the country, our Armed Forces have always shown unique bravery and wisdom. Whenever our country had to face natural calamities like floods or droughts, our Armed Forces had always been carrying out their duty in combating those calamities and every time they had played a laudable role. No word of praise would match the display of bravery, restraint and discipline which our Armed Forces had shown in Operation Bluestar recently.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all Indians are proud of our Armed Forces. Today, while

taking part in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, I wish to confine myself to two or three important points.

Today, when we see that nuclear power is being developed around us, we too have to think in this direction. Our two neighbouring countries, Russia and China, have already become Nuclear Powers. The American and Russian fleets are present in the Indian Ocean and they are equipped with nuclear weapons. Then, we always read in the newspapers that our neighbour Pakistan is also making progress in achieving nuclear weapons. The day is not far when the Indian sub-continent may also go nuclear. I would, therefore, like to know from the Hon. Minister of Defence whether the time is not ripe now for us also to acquire nuclear weapons. I do not want to go into the question of effectiveness of the nuclear weapons as all of us know about it; but a great advantage thereof would be that it would boost up the morale of our Armed Forces, and more particularly that of our countrymen. As such, I think that time has come for India to acquire nuclear weapons. We have got the scientific facilities as also the technique for it. Our scientists are no less competent than any other in the world. We have only to take a policy decision. I think now the time has come when we should acquire nuclear weapons and pay attention towards manufacturing them. I hope the Hon. Minister of Defence may be pleased to say something about this in his reply.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second point is that a number of regiments in our Armed Forces, particularly in the Army are named after different castes and religions, e.g., Sikh Regiment, Rajput Regiment, Jat Regiment and Mahar Regiment. There are many such Regiments which are continuing since the British period, and we are still following that convention. In view of this, different sections of our people have been continuously raising a demand to the effect that if there could be a Sikh Regiment, why there should not be a Muslim Regiment too; if there is a Rajput Regiment, why there not be a Yadav Regiment also; if there is a Jat Regiment, why we should not have other such regiments also. Government's plea about it is that they have just been following an old convention and that there would be

no new caste-based regiments other than those already continuing. In this connection, I suggest that from now onwards, no new caste-based regiments should be formed and in future we should name the regiments after the names of our historical heroes and the martyrs of our struggle for independence. We can have regiments like the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Regiment, Tipu Sultan Regiment, Shivaji Regiment, Maharana Pratap Regiment, and so on.

Ours is a vast country, having various States, various languages and varied cultures. We can christen our regiments after the historical heroes of our various States also. If we can name our five star hotels after Akbar and Ashoka, why can we not use the names of those heroes for our Army regiments too?

My third point is about recruitment. Previously, some people conventionally used to join the Armed Forces. There were some particular areas, castes and communities the people belonging to which usually used to join the Armed Forces, but today people from all over the country are interested in joining the Army. This is good and they should get the opportunity also for recruitment; but it should not be done by ignoring those people who have traditionally been serving the Army and considering it a matter of great pride to serve in the Army.

In this regard, I want to give an example from my Constituency. There are many people in the Army from Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh. There is a village named Gahamad, whose population is 40 thousand, out of which 10 thousand people are serving in the Army and an equal number or even more are ex-servicemen. Earlier, recruitment used to be made there and a team used to come to this village to make recruitment for the Army. But now, for the last five years no team has ever come there for making recruitment. I do agree that opportunities to join the Army should be given to the new people, but adequate opportunity should be given to those people also who have been joining the Army traditionally and who deem it a matter of great pride.

I also want to speak about ex-servicemen. We have got the Central Reserve

Police Force, the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Force and also the National Security Guards created by our present Minister of Defence, who was then holding the portfolio of Minister of Home Affairs. We train the soldiers, commissioned and non-commissioned officers of our Armed Forces inculcating in them a sense of national integration. They are above corruption. I would suggest that they should be sent direct to any one of these Forces when they are due for retirement, instead of retiring them and sending them home and their having to apply for vacancies in those forces in response to your advertisements and facing various types of queries from the police.

All these things should be done away with and on their retirement, they should be instructed by their regiment, company or battalion to report for duty to a particular Force. Similarly, a quota may be fixed for them in the armed police force of the States and they should be directed by their battalion to report for duty there. It will facilitate matters.

Now-a-days, we quite often get complaints of excesses by the police during disturbances, communal riots, etc., sometimes in Bihar, sometimes in U.P. Only yesterday, the police personnel were alleged to have committed excesses in Ahmedabad. I feel if the personnel from the Armed Forces were to be recruited in the para-military forces, we shall be rid of these complaints and they will inspire confidence and faith amongst the people.

[English]

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the functioning of the defence organisations. The first point that I would like to make is this. For some reason which it is difficult to understand the Defence Ministry continues to be as secretive as possible. It does not like to give more information than what it is forced to do. I have read for instance the material given in two sides of one page. They have summarised the security situation. That is very good. Because, brevity is not necessarily a bad thing; it is a very good thing. Having sum-

marised the security situation precisely what their impact on the Defence Ministry and Defence organisation is, how the Defence forces propose to counter and cope with that situation—there is hardly anything on these, except to say, as usual,—I think these are the words used in the summary—‘Accordingly our Defence plans aim at ensuring national security and territorial integrity of our country.’

And of course, the usual additional words will be ‘We shall maintain maximum efficiency possible.’ But one would like to know something more. For instance this morning’s newspaper carried a report of the Prime Minister’s observations to the Army Commanders, wherein he said that ‘our neighbours are receiving modern or sophisticated weapons which will necessitate very careful watching and study and ensuring that we can cope with this. Perfectly correct. But what are the details. Are they only to be kept within the secret coffers or the secret confines of the Defence Ministry? In fact somewhere else the Defence Ministry is reported to have said that we have appointed a committee which is preparing our long term defence plan.’ Well, it is what of course they should be doing. They may be doing it continuously. But at what point do they take the general public into confidence? The Defence Organisation’s or the Defence Ministry’s Budget is over Rs. 9,000 crores a very substantial part of the country’s budget. And, I think, the country has at least the right to know something more than merely the assurance that everything is well. And certainly everything is well. Let me make it quite clear that I am not saying this in order to cast any doubt on the functioning or the efficiency of the defence organisation. But I think it is in the interest of the defence organisation itself and of the country that the people are better educated about the defence problems and about the manner in which they should be faced. You consider this. In the same report that I referred to earlier the Prime Minister went on to say—‘I forget now the exact words which he. ‘Our preparedness should be continuous.’

There is no mention anywhere of nuclear weapons. In the summary of the security situation for the first time now the Defence Ministry has said :

'One of the recent developments of grave concern is the likely nuclearisation of the subcontinent. There are two nuclear weapon powers China and the Soviet Union in our neighbourhood and in the waters of the Indian Ocean is deployed the powerful Task Force of a third nuclear power, that is, the United States. Pakistan's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons capability with the assistance and connivance of certain countries, has added a new dimension to our security environment.'

Perfectly correct. But then what exactly is the impact of this particular summary on the defence organisation? How do they propose to cope with this situation? Do they accept the view that is being propounded by the civil Government that under no circumstances shall we have nuclear weapons? People, supposing that is the case, how with our defence cope with this particular problem?

If Pakistan as your neighbour—and it may easily turn into an unfriendly neighbour—has as many of nuclear weaponry, what exactly is your answer to it? I think we have a right to know about what exactly you propose to do in that eventuality.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Could I have your opinion on this?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Certainly I would say that you should have it. There is not the slightest doubt about it. I am clear on that point, because certainly as long as you have no other answer, you must have nuclear weapons yourself. But just as you have to accept in conventional warfare where great developments that are taking place, you have to ensure that you too have the sophisticated weapons. And mind you, today there is no question of cost because even to be efficient in conventional warfare too, you have to spend fantastic sums of money. One aircraft may cost as much as Rs. 10 or even Rs. 20 crores. Therefore, cost need no longer be an argument against nuclear weaponry, certainly not be more costly than conventional weapons at least. It will. I would certainly say that it is time the Defence Minister took us into confidence and said what exactly they

propose to do and what their thinking was. On that subject, we have a right at least to know. May be, you may not will publicly say, yet or even indicate whether you will go in for nuclear capability or not. But I consider that it is the gravest danger that you would be...

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : We thought it was time for us to elicit the opinion of enlightend Members in this House and in the other House...

[Interruptions]

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I am very glad and I welcome it and I congratulate the Hon. Minister. But, Sir, I would explain one point. If your opponent has nuclear weapons and you don't have, you demoralise your armed forces, no matter how well trained they are, how well-equipped they are. It is not necessary that because if you possess the nuclear weapons, you will need to use them. In fact, it is well known that it is because the USA and the USSR have become more or less balanced in this respect that they have been able to avoid nuclear war. But that has not been the end of the conventional warfare. In fact, there had taken place far more conventional wars since the last world war and indeed the death roll has been very high. It runs into millions. Therefore, not having nuclear weapons would be a mistake. Moreover having the nuclear weapons would mean that you have provided yourself with very efficient, very effective deterrent. It is in the deterrence that their value lies. If you possess it, you will use it only when you have no other course but to use it. And it will be upto your government our diplomats to see that such a situation is avoided. To the maximum extent possible, there should be discussions and negotiations, but those will have a chance of success because it is known that you have the nuclear weapons. I would urge that it is time this country seriously considered the question of providing itself with a nuclear capability and the sooner it so provides itself the better it will be. Mr. Chairman, you should give me some more time.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Sir, he was the Defence Secretary some years back and he should be given time. (Interruptions)

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Sir, there are several points to which I will refer very briefly. I think the other thing that the Prime Minister emphasised was training and discipline.

Now, several speakers who spoke before me, referred to the great services that the armed force did. Whenever law and order breaks down in any part of the country. It is their duty to come to the assistance of the Civil authorities but when? The words quoted from the Ministry's report are: "The assistance of the armed forces is provided only when all other avenues of assistance have already been explored."

I do not know the exact figures, but it is my information that in the last three years the Armed Forces have been called upon to assist the civil authorities to maintain law and order over 400 times. This is not a very good thing. It is not good from two points of view. It means that the law and order machinery of the civil authorities is so inefficient that it needs assistance from the Armed Forces as frequently.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : It is because your parties are responsible.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Am I speaking in such a manner as to imply that you are responsible or I am responsible. What I am saying is this as an Indian citizen. Permit me to speak in that way. There is no need for you to think that I am criticising you or anybody else. I am criticising ourselves. Yesterday, for instance I was horrified when I heard the Home Minister's statement two days ago. These words are really to be seriously noted. I am sure he could not have fully recognised their implication. He says, "The death of the head constable compounded by adverse reporting in the Press on an earlier decision of the Judicial Magistrate's Court restraining certain police officers from entering into Raipur and Khadia areas had deeply hurt the feelings of the police force which was clearly demoralised. With this background it would now appear that the visit of the team appointed by the High Court during which the head constable was dastardly attacked and killed led to outburst of pent up feelings in the police force." I may tell you that this is not a correct

piece of information. The head constable was in mufti and he was not with the Court team. Any way that is not very relevant here. The statement further says, "The funeral procession of the deceased head constable was attended by a large number of policemen. As the funeral procession moved on, the policemen got restive and unfortunately, some of them indulged in acts of arson, damage to private property, including vehicles on the road. The premises of the Gujarat Samachar Press and the Indian Express were set on fire. Further, most of the city unarmed police deserted their duties and even the mobile wireless communication system was disrupted."

Now I ask you, whatever may be the pent-up feelings, would any Commander-in-Chief consider this as a sufficient justification for his men going berserk? Never. In fact, the difference between the Armed Forces and the Police Force is precisely this. The same class of persons are recruited. But it is the training, the manner in which they are trained and disciplined instilled into them, that results in what the Armed Forces are and what the police is today. I do not say that it has always been like this with the Police. There was a time when the police force was also a highly disciplined force. But today it is not and that is a danger. What I would like to urge upon the Minister is this. The more you bring the Armed Forces for the maintenance of law and order the more you are exposing them to situation for which they are not trained and you run the risk of infecting them also with this kind of a bug. I think, therefore, it is very necessary that this should be avoided as far as possible. I do not say that the Armed Forces help should not be sought. They will, of course come when called as part of their duty. But it is for the Government to see to it that the number of occasions when they have to send for the Armed Forces is reduced to a minimum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Government as well as the public, more so political parties on this side, and on that side and their leaders are responsible.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I agree with everything that you say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up, Mr. Patel. I have given you sufficient time.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Please give me 2 or 3 minutes more. I think it will be worthwhile.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I gave you more time. Please wind up.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I would like to make 1 or 2 observations about N.C.C.

N.C.C. is one of our very valuable organizations, but I think the time has come for you to evaluate its working during the last 10 or 20 years since the Mahajani Committee gave its report. The Mahajani Committee did a very useful job, reviewing everything. But since then, many changes have come into being. Situations continuously change, and it is necessary for us to evaluate the kind of training that is given, the purposes for which we can use N.C.C. etc. The decision was taken to this effect, I think over a year ago, to set up such a committee but I do not think any action has been taken. I suggest that this may be seriously considered.

The second point I would like to mention regarding NCC is that there are areas in which NCC is functioning, where there is no accommodation. The officers and men, both experience great difficulties in finding accommodation, and I think it is very important that the Defence Ministry should take serious note of this, and provide accommodation in whatever way they can.

The third point regarding NCC to which I would draw your attention is that many difficulties are created by the way in which NCC is funded. The bulk of the expenditure is met by the Centre, but a certain amount is met by the States, and many decisions are taken which cannot be implemented because the matching assistance from the States is not forthcoming or not forthcoming in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Mr. Aziz Qureshi.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Holy Vedas, it has been stated somewhere :

[English]

"We win over those who dare to fight".

[Translation]

The brave soldiers of the Indian Army have amply proved it by their deeds and they have written the story of their valour in the pages of history with their own blood. At the outset, I pay my respectful homage to the brave soldiers of the Indian Army.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while discussing the defence budget or examining the defence preparedness of our country, first of all it should be seen how much emphasis has been laid in it on the modernisation, self-reliance and induction of a new weapons system. I have risen to support the budget, but I would like to draw the attention of the Defence Minister to the fact that the sophisticated weapons acquired and inducted into their armies by the South Asian and South East Asian countries especially by our neighbours Pakistan and China, particularly F-16, Harpoons and advanced missile system pose a grave danger for us. Taking all these factors into account it is the need of the hour that our Defence Ministry should concentrate on the induction of a new weapons system in our Army. While going through the budget I find that no significant provision has been made for research and development which should have been the most important respect of our defence establishment. Even less than 4 per cent of the total budgetary provision has been allocated under this Head. This amount is 20 to 30 per cent in the U.S.A., 17 to 21 per cent in the Great Britain and about 18 per cent in France. I quite realise that it is not possible for us to provide such a huge amount for research and development but I would like to impress upon the Defence Minister the need to reorganise and restructure the research and development wing in the Defence Ministry. As far as my information goes, its main activities have been directed towards development work and little attention has been

paid to the research side. The required attention not been to it. Besides, I would like to recall that the Research and Development Establishment had decided about ten years ago that an indigenously developed L-60 engine would be fitted in the Vijayanta tank. Ten years have since passed but you could not make available the L-60 engine for the Vijayanta Tank. Two days back, a report appeared in a leading newspaper, *The Hindustan Times*, that it is due to the vested interest of the companies engaged in the manufacture of engine of foreign tanks and that the retired senior officers of the Indian Army, who occupied responsible positions in the Defence Ministry and were responsible for policy-making are now trying their best in collusion with foreign engine manufactures to sabotage the move by India to develop the L-60 engine. Thus, this engine could not be fitted in the Vijayanta tank so far. I would like it to be looked into immediately and appropriate action taken in this regard.

I feel that our defence planners, the functionaries in the Ministry of Defence should have brought about qualitative changes in their planning and strategy befitting the prevailing conditions. But after studying the report, I may humbly submit that I fail to see the requisite qualitative changes in the budget. Percentage of budgetary provision is just the same. It has not been increased. Every year there used to be an average increase of 10 per cent but this year that has not been done. This year 15 per cent of the total budget has been allocated for the Defence Ministry whereas it was 17 per cent during the previous year. In today's atmosphere when there is a threat to our independence and we are surrounded by enemies, against whom the country is to be defended; I do not think that you have made appropriate budgetary provision for the Defence Ministry.

I must congratulate the Hon. Defence Minister for allocating more funds for the Navy, which is the need of the hour. The imperialistic forces are increasing their influence in the Indian Ocean and it was necessary to grant maximum amount of money to the Navy to counter balance their increasing power. In my opinion, this amount should be increased further as it is still on the low

side. A major part of all the funds, all the amounts that have been provided for in the budget for the Navy or for the Air Force or for the Armed Forces, is going to be spent on stores and other related facilities only. You have made no special provision in the budget for modernising the Army, the Air Force and the Navy and for inducting a new weapons system. I would like the Defence Minister to pay special attention to it.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the ex-servicemen. First of all, I would like to refer to your policy of retiring the military personnel on their reaching the age group of 35 to 45 years, and paying them pension. But, in today's conditions, this requires to be changed. I suggest that this period may be increased to 45 to 50 years. Military personnel be retired at the minimum age of 45 years and 50 years at the maximum. You should take a decision in this regard.

Secondly, I would like to say that there is discontentment amongst the ex-servicemen. You have framed schemes for providing them with bank loans at concessional rates of interest to enable them to start their own occupations. I would like to submit that our ex-servicemen too have to face all those difficulties and hurdles in securing loans from the bank which other people face in this respect. If you think that our ex-servicemen get loans easily, your presumption is wrong. I, therefore, suggest that you kindly set up an Ex-servicemen Welfare Finance Corporation for rehabilitating our former military personnel. A person of the rank of General should be appointed as its Chairman. It should have branches in all the States and it should have its agencies in each district on the lines of the Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen board. They should be entrusted with the work of resettling the ex-servicemen and extending to them various facilities. You may kindly take immediate action to allocate at least Rs. 100 crores to the said corporation for the purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that we have to deploy our Army in every State day in and day out for maintaining law and order. In my opinion, this is not a very good or happy thing. I, would, therefore, appeal to the Hon. Minister of Defence to review this policy. You may

kindly create a task force entirely composed of the retired Army personnel to help you in maintaining peace and law and order throughout the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to place before you my last point and request the Hon. Minister of Defence to pay attention to it. The following has been stated at page 16 of the Annual Report of your Ministry for the year 1984-85.

[English]

Para 2 (a) "Two Seaward defence boats built by the Garden Reach ship-builders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta were commissioned on 31st October, 1984 and 26th February, 1985."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an old joke.

[English]

Commonsense is uncommon in Armed Forces.

[Translation]

I never thought that the experts of the Indian Army will commission their defence boats on the very day on which the Prime Minister of our country, Smt. Indira Gandhi, was assassinated. They had commissioned the Seaward Defence Boats on that day. I take strong exception to it and request the Hon. Minister of Defence to take a serious view of it.

[English]

You take the matter seriously, because it is totally in human and indecent.

[Translation]

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force for defending the honour of India in all minor and major battles, for enhancing the prestige of India and for defending India's independence.

Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime Minister of the country towards the end of the Second World War. The armies of the fascists like Hitler and Mussolini on the one side and the Allied Forces on the other side were engaged in a decisive battle and the world was divided into two blocks. He saw how the world was divided into two blocks and how it faced destruction. Hitler and Mussolini and their supporters did not succeed in their fascist designs but the world had to face destruction. For the first time, atom bombs were dropped over Nagasaki and Hiroshima and lakhs of innocent lives were lost. The scene of that vast devastation was fresh in his memory and so he conceived the idea of a world free from war. He realised that if the countries of Asia and Latin America, which had attained freedom or were going to become independent, involved themselves in war or started manufacturing weapons and joined the arms race, they will not be able to develop and the world will have to face destruction for the third time. So, he tried to create such an atmosphere in the world that there may be no war. With this objective, the Bandung Conference was held in which the great leaders of Asia and Europe took part and the principles of *Panchsheel* and peaceful co-existence were adopted and it was resolved to settle all issues through mutual negotiations. The question of eliminating war was discussed. It was a great idea and a great ideal, and our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, always promoted this great ideal. She repeatedly warned that it was not a question of the security of India. India could defend herself through traditional means. It was only yesterday that the Hon. Minister of Defence said that our country was prepared to meet any challenge and our Army was quite capable of meeting it with conventional arms. It is not the security of India which is at stake today but the very existence of the human race is threatened and India is very much part of it. If the entire human race and all the countries of the world are destroyed, how can India escape?

Sir, I shall now briefly refer to the atmosphere of nuclear war which is there in the world today. At present 60 Atomic tests are being conducted every year by the nuclear powers, by Russia, 46 per cent, by the U.S.A. 30 per cent, 18 per cent by France

and 2 per cent each by Britain, China and other nations. 22 Nations have got one lakh kilogram of Plutonium and explosive material which is being used by them. There are 234 atomic reactors in the world at present and the number is likely to go up to 481 by 2000 AD. These reactors are capable of producing 50,000 atomic bombs similar to that dropped over Nagasaki and also the hydrogen and neutron bombs which will be 10 lakh times more powerful than those dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At present, the U.S.A. has a stock-pile of 1070 I. C. B. Ms. and 744 SLVMs; 37 submarines equipped with nuclear power, 411 long range bombers and 9200 nuclear warheads. The USSR has piled up 1180 I. C. B. Ms. 976 S.L.V.M.s 62 submarines equipped with nuclear power, 90 long range bombers and 6000 nuclear war-heads. One super power is arming the NATO countries and the other is supplying arms to the War saw pact countries. While one is providing missiles to the NATO countries, the other is supplying them to the War saw Pact countries. Thus, these countries are being made powerful. It is all being done clandestinely and outwardly Geneva talks are going on. Today, 400 million dollars are being spent on the arms race in the world and it is registering a 15 per cent increase every year. Out of the total expenditure on defence in the world, the U.S.A. accounts for 24.7 per cent, the USSR 23.7 per cent, China 9.9 per cent, the countries of the third world 15.3 per cent and other countries 5.4 per cent. In all, 56 countries have joined the race for the purchase of arms and 45 per cent of these arms are being sold to them by the U.S.A. These traders of death are selling weapons worth billions of rupees, some on deferred payment basis and some on cash down basis and are proliferating nuclear arms in the countries all over the world. The U.S.A. is selling 24.7 per cent of the arms manufactured by it, the USSR 23 per cent, China 9.9 per cent, France and Britain etc. 5 and 7 per cent each. Thus, 56 nations are purchasing weapons out of which 24 are from the third world. Atomic bombs were dropped over Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The present bomb is 10 lakh times more powerful and 50,000 such bombs have already been produced. When someone asked Einstein, the inventor of this power, who had witnessed the Second World War, what his view was about the third world war; after a serious pause, he said with dismay

that he could not say how the war would be fought and what would happen to the world; it could not be said whether the world would remain in existence or not. Today, the whole world is sitting on nuclear arms and ammunition, which may destroy it. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, spoke of the only way to avoid this disaster, while speaking from the platforms of the United Nations, the Non-aligned Movement and the Common wealth. She forewarned of the danger to the world and to humanity at large and pleaded for putting an end to the race for nuclear arms, destroying the stockpile of the arms already manufactured and resumption of the Geneva talks. It is a matter of happiness that the Geneva talks, which broke down last year, have been resumed. Mr. Gorbachev, the President of the USSR and President Reagan of the USA will hold talks next year. Today, it is not just a question of saving India, but it is a question of saving the entire world and the entire humanity, as a civilization thousands of years old is threatened to be reduced to ashes. India is playing its appropriate role. We are happy to note that our Hon. Prime Minister, our Defence Minister and our Minister of External Affairs are pursuing the policies enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Our Government are following those very policies which were adopted by them to save the world. It will do good not only to India but also to the world at large and to humanity. This is the only way, otherwise the world will be reduced to ashes. I hope that a universal consensus will be developed and the countries of the Non-aligned Movement, Commonwealth Countries and the people of the world will compel the super powers to stop manufacturing nuclear arms. The stockpile of nuclear arms already manufactured should be destroyed, otherwise the human race will not survive. I congratulate our Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, for their endeavours in this direction. I have much to say but since you have rung the bell, I must try to conclude.

There are three types of wars being fought today. One is the conventional war, the other is nuclear war to which I have just referred and the third is the war of espionage. India has become the haven for spying activities. The C.I.A. is active in all the

developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is engaged in creating internal disorder and stirring up communal disturbances. Disintegration and weakening of countries is also the handiwork of the C.I.A. The C.I.A. had its hand in the assassination of many personalities of the world, prominent among them are Patrick Lumumba, Allende of Chile, Szeikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh, Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy of America, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and Homi Bhabha. Now India has to be on guard against the C.I.A. They were responsible for the assassination of our Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi.

16.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

She was assassinated with the object of disintegrating the country and gaining control over the developing countries of the world. The big powers were afraid of Hon. Shrimati Gandhi, so she was assassinated. They have their hand behind the disturbances also which are now taking place. The unity and integrity of India will have to be guarded against this war of espionage. With these words, I support the Demands of the Ministry of Defence..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : You will have noticed, Sir, that during the course of this debate many things have been said or are likely to be said against the performance of the Ministry of Defence. It is, however, significant to note that not one single Member in this House has said anything against the role of our defence forces personnel. This is because we all and the whole country hold our Jawans, our Airmen and our Naval personnel in the highest esteem and we are proud of their performance. They have done a magnificent work for this country and I can say that as man to man they are second to none in valour, courage, steadfastness and loyalty. And if these fighting men of ours can be given the latest and the best tools of war, I am certain that our fighting men are capable of giving a bloody nose to any army in the world.

This whole debate as about this point : have we been able to provide the necessary

tools of war for our defence forces personnel or not? If not, what has been our difficulties and what we have done to remove all those difficulties? These are vital questions for which we would like to have a reply from the Hon. Minister when he replies to the Debate.

Before we make a proper assessment of our achievements and our failures in the field of defence preparedness it is necessary for us to reflect on our security environments and to identify the directions and the areas from where this country apprehends danger and threat. In my humble opinion the threat to India comes from four different directions or places. Firstly it is the threat from within the country. Second, the threat is from our northern borders, from China. Third, it is from the Indian Ocean and the fourth, it is from our neighbour, Pakistan. These are the four areas from where we apprehend danger.

As far as the danger or the threat from within the country is concerned, I do not want to say very much about it because it is a subject outside the per view of this Ministry. But I would say this much that for defence preparedness, it is absolutely necessary that we in this country have political stability and unity. The Prime Minister himself has said that the best way to defend the country is for us to stay united at home. I am sure what is happening in Punjab, Gujarat and elsewhere will be taken care of by the Ministry of Home Affairs and by the Prime Minister and they would soon find a solution to it in order to bring about normalcy in these areas.

As far as the threat from China is concerned our relations with China are in a way normal because they are not very hostile, at the moment, but the fact remains that we have a few border problems with them about which talks are going on. And I am certain that both the countries would find a solution to those problems and there will be no necessity to go to war on those issues. I feel, if ever a threat comes from China, it will not come from China alone, it will come in combination with threats from some other corner.

The Indian Ocean is quite a different

thing. The real danger to us is from the Indian Ocean and from Pakistan. Developments in the Indian Ocean are really causing concern and anxiety not only to India, but to all the countries in this area. The threat is posed because of the rivalry between the two super powers. We all know what is happening in Diego Garcia and the presence in large numbers and the strength of the US and the Russian Naval units. All these things, I think, are creating a great deal of tension in that area and we from our side feel that with these developments over there, the danger has come to our own doorstep. But we feel rather helpless in this regard. Whatever we may say from the international forum, whatever we may do to defuse the situation or to bring about some kind of a situation in which the two Big Powers may sit together and decide and on these issues we are not succeeding, it will not help. The fact remains that today the whole thing depends on the big powers. If they decide to have normalcy and peace in this area everything will be all right for us. But so long as they keep on brow-beating each other and quarreling among themselves, I doubt very much if we can do anything about it except to raise our voice in the international forums against all this and hope and pray that one day the Resolution of the U.N. Council in regard to the Indian Ocean being a zone of peace will be accepted by the two Big Powers and they call a conference and settle the issue.

After that, I think the main threat to us or the main trouble is from Pakistan. Our relations with that country are relations of what we call love and hate. We have had three aggressions by Pakistan, unprovoked aggressions, and even now we find that on the one hand President Zia is talking of friendship, is inviting our Prime Minister to go over to Pakistan. All these gestures are, of course, welcome, but side by side with that he is making frantic attempts to accumulate and collect the latest lethal weapons from America and elsewhere and these weapons are for in excess of Pakistan's actual military and defence needs. But these weapons will also augment the offensive capability of Pakistan and we would like to know against which country these weapons are likely to be used. Pakistan certainly cannot go to war with China because her relations with them are very friendly. Pakistan cannot

make war on Russia for obvious reasons. The only country against which those weapons are likely to be used or can be used is India, as they had been used in the past. So, that aspect will have to be taken note of and we should prepare ourselves for it. The other fact is that the success of Pakistan in achieving nuclear capability is, I think, another development which has given to a very serious dimension of our already none-too-happy relationship and now we have to decide once and for all as to whether we are going to keep our options open and think in terms of preparing ourselves for this new danger, or not.

All these ominous developments whether they are in Pakistan or in the Indian Ocean, should be taken note of and a time has come now, in my opinion, when we should review and recast our entire defence strategy and we should also change the pattern of our expenditure on our defence forces. In this connection, my first suggestion would be that we should raise the Defence budget from near about 4 per cent as it is now to at least 6 per cent. I say this for the reason that I feel, and it is because of paucity of funds that our Government and the Ministry of Defence are in difficulty in providing the necessary tools and wherewithals and the military hardware for our Armed Forces. This is coming in the way and I am sure this House and this country will not grudge any extra expenditure on the Defence Forces provided we know that the money is being properly utilised and the money is being utilised for preparing our Armed Forces for any eventuality in future.

In this connection, I would like to say that when I was reading the Report, I read in one place where it was mentioned that the expenditure on Defence in India is among the lowest in the world. In my opinion, this has been said rather proudly but I feel that there is nothing to be proud of in it, I would rather say that the Ministry of Defence should spend much more than they are spending now and I am certain that if the expenditure that is being incurred by the Defence Minister is utilised properly and if they are given more money, I am sure our defence preparedness will be accelerated. I am reminded of the words of Mr. Krishna Menon...

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : It has not been said 'proudly', it has been said as a matter of fact and also in possible reply to those who say that we are spending too much.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, my point of view is that we are not spending enough.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is my point of view too.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : And I am almost certain that nobody in this House would grudge any extra expenditure.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Both are violently in agreement.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : My second suggestion would be that there is also the need for rationalisation of expenditure on the three wings of the Defence forces also. I am suggesting this in order to bring about a balanced development of all the three wings of the Defence forces. My view is that the expenditure on Army from the present 65 per cent should be reduced to 55 per cent. It is not because the Army's needs are less or there is no need to spend more money there. But the fact remains that so far the emphasis has been all along on the modernisation of the Army and : for providing equipment to Army. I think, though their needs have not been completely saturated, their needs have been met to a very great extent. We can afford to cut the expenditure there in order to help the other two wings which, I think, have suffered due to paucity of funds.

The expenditure on Navy is near about 8 per cent at present. This, in my view, should be raised to 12 per cent. Similarly, the expenditure on Air Force should be increased from 24 per cent to 28 per cent. The expenditure on Defence research and development of 2 per cent or less than 2 per cent is ridiculously low and, I think, it should be raised to 5 per cent.

The third suggestion of mine would be that, I think, the time has now come where we should set up an experts committee to go into the question of our security environment, what our requirements are, what our

needs are, in order to prepare a perspective plan. Merely leaving the things to the hands of civilians will not do. I know, there is a high-powered committee which goes into this question. But I am told that the people who serve on this Committee are all civilians. There is not a single military expert on the committee. That is what has come to my knowledge. I say it subject to correction. Even our Chiefs of Staff are not directly involved in it. So, I want that there should be a body in which you can include experts from outside, from the academic world, and military experts. Of course, we have so many experts in our own country. That body should be responsible for looking into the affairs as to what our needs are, what are the changes coming about over the entire world and, in the context of those changes, what we should do. There should be a long-term perspective plan for that.

Yesterday, my hon. friend, Shri Amal Datta, mentioned about ad hoc-ism. I am against ad hoc-ism also. I think, the time has now come when we should realise that the danger and the threat to our security will always be there so long as our relations with Pakistan are not normalised, so long as Pakistan remains a part of the U.S. global strategy and so long Pakistan remains the cat's Paw of the Pentagon. So long as that is the position with regard to Pakistan, I do not think in the near future our relations with Pakistan are likely to improve very much and, in the circumstances, we have to prepare our selves.

A word about the Report of the Ministry of Defence. I have read the Report very carefully. The Reports provides a great deal of information about the organisation and structure of our defence organisation. But it does not contain any critical or meaningful appraisal of actual performance in terms of pre-determined targets and objectives. In the absence of that information, we cannot really make an assessment as to whether during the past one year we have moved forward or there has been a slide-back. Things have been mentioned by name but nothing has been said as to when the projects were taken up, how much work has been done, what has been the delay due to and what reasons are there for the delays. All these things have not been explained. So, it is very

difficult for us to know exactly where we are in our defence preparations.

For example, the Report mentions that the Air Defence Ground Environment System (A.D.G.E.S.) plan is progressing satisfactorily. We do not know when the programme was started, how long we have taken over it, what is the time-frame within which it will be completed and other details about it. Similarly, the M.B.T. project was taken up in 1972 and it has not yet been completed. We would like to know why there is delay and due to what reasons there is delay. What about Battle Fields Surveillance Radar? What about 155 mm. Hewitzer gun? This project has taken a very long time. But still we are not able to make up our mind as to whether we should accept the Austrian-offer or the French offer or some other offer. In this connection, I may add that this gun has already been accepted and introduced in Pakistan Army. We are still thinking about it. Same is the case with our aircraft. Pakistan has got F-16 with side winder missiles and all that. We have not yet made up our minds as to whether the answer to that plane would be the Mirage or the Jagaur or the MIG-29. It is still undecided what exactly is the matching plane for which we can go in and which we can manufacture without aid from outside. That matter should also be given serious thought. Same is the case with submarines and helicopters. We read about them but we do not know when they are going to come and when we will introduce them in our armed force. (*Interruptions*)

A very valid point was raised by Mr. Rajesh Pilot yesterday about the purchase of arms from outside. He said that we should in future purchase all Military hardware on a Government to Government basis from the country which manufactures it rather than through the agents because most of these Agents belong to either one cartel or the other and these international cartels are under the influence of certain powers and these powers sometimes influence these cartels in such a way that sometimes there is delay in the delivery of the material from outside and sometimes they also misguide us. I think we should be careful about that.

In future when we want to buy, it is better to get into an agreement with the

Government so that we can get our requirements made as early as possible and without delay.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, since Defence and External Affairs are connected matters, probably because of that, here a Chapter on national security environment has been included.

In my opinion, this chapter really does not point out unequivocally from whom the dangers to India from the point of view of defence arise.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : It is an old story.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is an old story because old things are continuing. Naturally it has to be. For example, the Indian Ocean. I am hearing that the Indian Ocean is one of the most important zones from which we are threatened. It is necessary to know who is threatening because the ultimate military tactics are related to that. We are not existing in a world of our own. Everybody knows it.

This report says the proposal of declaring the Indian Ocean area as a zone of peace has receded into the background. Who is responsible? Is it not a fact that due to continued United States and NATO obstructions, the United Nations *Adhoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean has been compelled to propose a postponement of the convening of the Conference on converting Indian Ocean into a zone of peace in 1968? This is the fourth postponement which has taken place due to the US insistence on bringing in external conditions. If it is so, the people behind this? People should know it. I think this hide and seek on this chapter will not help us.

While speaking about Pakistan, it is said that Pakistan has taken full advantage of the continuing Soviet presence in Afghanistan and as if it is all because of Soviet presence in Afghanistan that Pakistan is taking advantage. Why this allibi of Pakistan?

Why not make it clear that this military regime in Pakistan had an anti-India drive

always? In that, the United States is the principal factor which gives them the boost; it has to be stated clearly because it is not a question of having love or hatred for a particular country or a particular system. (*Interruptions*) Of course, it is obvious that it is the United States' global strategy. Pakistan is only a pawn. You may say that Pakistan has taken advantage of it, but that is what is being sought for by the United States. I think, the proper security atmosphere should be described for future direction of our defence preparedness.

I would really express our grave concern at the situation that today 36 littoral States and 11 hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, those who belong to our Non-Aligned Movement, have become virtual hostages of the U. S. global strategy of nuclear war.

Coming to the Defence Budget as such, some have said that it is secretive. But the whole question of the Defence Budget being so secretive makes it difficult for us to participate meaningfully in the debate. We have to read the newspapers to know from whom we are buying arms, who are competing with whom, what under-hand means are going on. These are sometimes mentioned in the open press. Why not take the Parliament into confidence and tell us, if not all at least about the principal things that are really being talked about? I think, that should be done in future if you really want proper suggestions.

After all, I am a poor woman. With this huge weaponry, I have very little to do. I am sure you do not expect me to come out with long lectures on the weaponry. But, as a citizen of this country who is interested in the country's defence, I would like to make a few observations.

About this question of *ad hocism* and long-term plan, I also feel, whatever little I understand of this, that a long-term plan is really very necessary. For example, how will we have our defence? Naturally we do not want to attack anybody. But if others are going to attack us, then how are we going to defend ourselves? (*Interruptions*) In my opinion the principal stress should be on developing missiles which can neutralise the attack that may come on us. I really do not know what is the position in that regard. We would like to know about it.

Research and Development is, doubtless, one of the most important things if we want to have some sort of self-reliance. It seems to me that this year the allocations to R and D has been increased a little; from Rs. 176 crores it has become Rs. 236 crores. That is what I understand. Even then, I think, R and D has not been given its proper importance. The increase will only cover up the escalation in cost.

Then you have all these talks about engine, Vijayanta tank and what not; I am reading in the newspapers that we are now running after many countries either they are running after us or we are running after them.

I do not know if really with a greater R and D effort we could have surmounted this problem. Like that, I think, in certain areas at least where our technology has already reached a certain height, with a little more effort, we certainly could have made some more achievements. R and D must have a bigger share.

About our Navy everybody has said that this time you have given more money for Navy. As I see, if I am correct, out of this increased money, 85% will go for stores. Then how about modernisation? I think we are not making much modernisation. It seems to be a little confusing. Everybody has said about this manpower planning. At least I think there is a big scope for re-employing our retired persons in some other capacity. We should try to employ them in a work related to their previous work. That should be thought of.

Lastly, I would like to make a suggestion. Recently the NAM Bureau Ministerial Meeting called for military assistance to SWAPO. I would suggest—let the Government of India think of sending a contingent to fight in Namibia side by side with the military forces of SWAPO. There is nothing strange about it. We have known about the International Brigade. Pandit Nehru himself was so inspired about the Spanish International Brigade in Spain. In today's world if we do so, I think it will be consistent with our commitment.

✓ KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :  
(Jadavpur) Thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

The Defence Ministry is a very important organisation in our country. Whether it is during war or in peace it is a well-known fact that this Ministry is doing quite well, so well that the House should congratulate the Ministry as well as our Defence forces--the Army, Navy and the Air Force for their good performance. We, the Indian people, always try to enjoy our life. But the jawan who is giving duty at his post does not get any time to take his breakfast or lunch or enjoy the life. He is sacrificing all the 24 hours for the sake of our country. So we are proud that our Defence Ministry is one of the best Ministries of the world because of their efficiency, their honesty, their sincerity, their dedication, their dynamism and also their loyalty and we are grateful to our Defence forces.

Some Hon. Members from the Opposition made a point about Ahmedabad. But I think this is Defence discussion. This is not a discussion on Home Ministry. I think this is the only Ministry which we cannot criticise, because this is not a place for politics, this is a place of unity, this is a place of national integration and this is a place of loyalty. I request all of my friends that let us advance with unity; let us think with unity; let us speak with unity and let us have the same desires and inclinations. Let our prayer be common; let our hearts be united for the common happiness.

Sir, this is an important department. Jawans are sacrificing 24 hours for the sake of our country. Government should take care for all round development of jawans. I would like to say that when the family responsibilities are at the maximum the personnel or jawans of the Army, Navy and Air Force are retired from the service at a fairly young age of 35-40 years. They are then left on footpath or forced to take Class IV jobs. About 60,000 personnel retire from Army, Navy and Air Force every year. Most of them do not get suitable jobs or cannot rehaoolitate themselves properly with very meagre and insufficient pension and after-retirement benefits. So, these jawans should be suitably rehabilitated and given jobs.

Sir, our Indian jawans have defeated enemy equipped with better and more sophisticated weapons. Our jawans have

shown their courage and sincerity during the aggression by the Chinese in 1968, by the Pakistanis in 1965 and during 1971 Bangladesh war and also during the Blue Star Operation in Golden temple.

Sir, it is true that the Government in the current budget has raised funds for Defence. I must congratulate the Prime Minister for this. The government should spend the funds for not only the development and modernisation and sophistication of the equipment but also for better facilities and welfare of jawans.

I would like to give some suggestions to the Government :

1. We should produce more sophisticated and latest design weapons. There should be modernisation of high quality aircraft, weapons and equipment so that the personnel and the Jawans are encouraged when they compare our development with that of the advanced countries.
2. Ten per cent posts in Central Government Public Sector Undertakings; State Government organisations and semi-Government services be reserved for ex-servicemen.
3. Recommendations of K. P. Singh Deo High Level Committee for ex-servicemen with regard to reservation of posts should be implemented forthwith.
4. National Cadet Corps should be restored and I will request the Hon. Minister that NCC cadets should be enrolled as second line of defence.
5. There should be better quality of food. The dress should be fire-proof and equipment should be anti-atomic.

Sir, I have no idea about Defence and, as such, I cannot cover everything but I have some proposals which I am placing before the House. Please set up a women's brigade in the name of Indiraji, our great mother, who has sacrificed her life for the sake of our country. We will not be able to

hear her voice, a voice which wanted justice for the masses. To quote: "Generations to come, it may be, will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." A tree is known by its fruit. Indiraji is known by her activities and achievements. So, Indira means national integration; Indira means sacrifice. It will be in the fitness of things if you set-up a women's brigade in the name of Indira brigade. We will be grateful to you. Please set up a women's brigade to give more and more chance to women.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands introduced in this House by the Hon. Minister for Defence.

Sir, the security environment—as has been stated in the Report—requires our attention. We are finding that there is a stockpiling of weapons within a thousand kilometres of the southern tip of our country; Diego Garcia is becoming a base for the activities of the US Navy and Air Force and they have given top priority for the construction of various bases there. It is not only that it is a place for collection of arms but it is a focal point for the manoeuvres of USA in the entire south of Asia. They have drawn up a comprehensive programme for construction of the runways to make it a strong centre for their operations. Pakistan is also causing a grave threat to our security and peace. This is borne out by our previous experience.

Sir, in the expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Defence, we find that 36.7 per cent of the entire expenditure is accounted for by pay and allowances. This item is going to rise further with the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. So, we should look to this aspect and we should not grudge any extra expenditure due to the salaries and allowances to be given to them.

Then, Sir, I would plead with the Hon. Minister that we should have a Systems Analysis and a coordinated approach. Whenever we purchase weapons or some other items of military ware, we should see that Army, Navy and Air Force have an integrated and a coordinated approach. What is good

for all the three sectors should be given priority and an integrated approach must be adopted rather than having an individual approach by each wing. Some items which may be purchased may be essential for the Army or Navy or Air Force. It may not be so when an integrated approach is adopted. I will give you one concrete example. The Navy may require aircraft and heavy naval force for protecting the oil drilling in the off shore wells. But it may not be necessary when it is suggested that the wells may be closed well in time in periods of war. This Systems Analysis is being adopted in many advanced countries of the world and cost effectiveness is being examined in relation to possible alternatives.

Now, Sir, since my time is limited, I confine myself to certain things about the welfare of ex-servicemen. In the High Level Committee (of which I was a Member) there were six Members of Parliament and an equal number of Ministers with Shri K. P. Singh Deo as the Chairman. They submitted a report on the 27th October 1984, just four days before the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The then Prime Minister may have looked at the report. This report was also presented to this House. Ex-servicemen all over the country are awaiting the decision of the Government on this report. The basic problem about ex-servicemen all over the country is that they are Central Government employees, but the 'Welfare of Ex-servicemen' is in the State List and it is to be administered by the State Governments. The State Governments should be persuaded to ensure the welfare of ex-servicemen by implementing the Central guidelines. The jawans who sacrifice their blooming youth for the sake of their motherland should be looked after well after retirement. They come to our rescue in the hour of peril. The State Governments should not neglect them simply because they are out of uniform. It is with this view that the High Level Committee for the Welfare of Ex-servicemen recommended the setting up of a Parliamentary Committee for the Welfare of Ex-servicemen to have supervision over the implementation of various measures for their welfare, with its reflection in the State Legislatures. Sir, it is the responsibility of the Central and State Legislatures to look to the welfare of jawans and their

families after their retirement. It should be ensured that they are not left to the small mercies of the civil administration of the State, at the State level and at the district level and block level. When the man-in-uniform goes out after retirement, whether from the Air Force or the Army or the Navy, he finds that the attitude of respect for him is missing. It should be ensured that if not the salute, at least the grace continues and adequate respect continues, feeling of sympathy continues. Let there be no discrimination and disparity in the payment of pensions. I would request the Hon. Minister to expedite the decision on the report of that Committee. One important thing is about the land which the army men have inherited and that land is taken away by the tenants and is not returned to them when they come back. An amendment to the State tenancy laws in this regard is necessary to exempt the land belonging to the army personnel from the operation of tenancy laws.

Sir, it is quite common now that recruitment to the armed forces is not proving sufficiently attractive, as our friend Mr. Rajesh Pilot was saying yesterday. In the matrimonial columns it is written "servicemen need not apply". We should ensure that the morale of the forces is kept high which is so essential for our national integrity.

Sir, army is being called upon increasingly to assist the civil administration in time of crisis. I must pay my tribute to our jawans for solving the intricate situation in Punjab and I want to be on record that many of the brave sons of our soil had to lay down their lives during the Operation 'Blue Star'. They are the true heroes of the nation. The Government of India deserves congratulations. The Ministry of Defence has done the right thing by giving them gallantary awards like Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra posthumously; Sir, those people who are talking in terms of breaking up the nation are trying to sabotage the unity of the nation. Last year, the army defended our unity and the nation would not have been as it is today, but for their brave action at Amritsar. They responded to the call of the nation and they responded to the call with grace and honour and brought glory to the nation. We should take care that their dependents are not driven from pillar to post.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to my own area, that is, two contonments at Hamirpur and Una. Our State Government in Himachal Pradesh has been pressing for an Ordnance factory. Our State Government has been doing a bit for the welfare of the Ex-servicemen. I would plead with the Minister of Defence to sanction an ordnance factory as Himachal Pradesh deserves it. It has sacrificed more than one thousand of its sons in the defence of the motherland since independence. Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Defence the Ministry of Defence and the Armed forces for saving the unity of the nation at the time of the greatest peril. Let them have due pride and glory for this noble achievement.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURWEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak though I had to wait for quite some time. I am afraid of your ringing the bell. I shall complete my speech within the allotted time and you will not have to ring the bell to ask me conclude.

Sir, today a calm and tranquil ocean like the Indian Ocean is being turned into a zone of turbulence and turmoil, the danger signal is ringing there and it is overcast with the clouds of crisis. The U.S.A. has established 30 military bases in Diego Garcia and fighter planes are being amassed there in thousands. 80 war-ships have been moved in there and fleet equipped with three atomic submarines are disturbing our zone peace. We have a very long coast-line and we must pay special attention to provide for its defence. We shall have to take special care to monitor the movements of these submarines as it may not be known which of the atomic submarine is hidden in which corner and when it may pose a danger to us and, for this purpose, we shall have to make our Navy very strong. We should not hesitate to produce atomic power and manufacture such submarines if it is considered necessary for the defence of the country.

I would like to say that our Government needs money mainly for the defence of our country. We want development and

progress but if the freedom of our country is taken away and our country becomes a slave, what would be the use of our development works and plans? Therefore, the prime need is that we must pay the utmost attention to the defence of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the U.S.A. is supplying sophisticated and powerful weapons to Pakistan on a large scale. History is witness to the fact that whenever we extended our hand of friendship to Pakistan, she spurned it. India is a peace-loving country and she believes in the principle of "Live and let live" and she wants friendly and good relations with her neighbouring countries. But, today Pakistan is getting powerful and sophisticated weapons from the U.S.A. We must be vigilant and cautious about it. Keeping in view the above factors we shall have to arm our soldiers and the Armed Forces with powerful and sophisticated weapons.

Our soldiers are guarding our frontiers like a rock and are prepared to sacrifice their lives, be it the peaks of the Himalayas or the scorching heat of the deserts. It would be a blunder on our part if we fail to equip them with powerful and modern weapons. In order to boost their morale and to make them more powerful we must equip them with the latest and best weapons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I pay my homage to those persons who became Martyrs at Jalianwala Bagh and faced bullets on their chests during the struggle for freedom. In the same Jalianwala Bagh area, some extremists have emerged. Those extremists and disruptive elements have conspired in league with other countries to put our freedom in peril. They tried to destroy our unity and integrity. To curb those elements, our brave soldiers fought with such valour that although they were killed in the process, they did not hurt the sentiments of others. They deserve our praise. I request the Minister that a memorial should be raised in memory of those who sacrificed their lives there so that our future generations may know about their brave deeds and the utmost patience and sacrifice they had displayed.

Sir, I represent Khajuraho constituency.

There is a Research Unit at Navgaon in Chatarpur district. That Unit is very small and very few persons are working there. When some Jawans, who had deserted the Army units with Arms at Patna and were proceeding to help the rebels in the Punjab, reached Navgaon after covering a long distance, the employees of the said Research Unit forced them to surrender and arrested them. I appreciate their deed and thank them. In this connection, I would like to remind you that Navgaon was a big military cantonment some time back. If I am not wrong, our General Thamayya and a Pakistani leader had received training there. They were students there. Today, buildings worth crores of rupees are almost in ruins there. Only a small Research Unit remains. The State Government are ready to offer land as much as they require. I, therefore, request that either one regiment of the artillery or one battalion of the infantry should be moved to Navgaon or some offices be moved there so that the place, which is safe and has a strategic importance, could be utilised for defence purposes. Thereby, employment opportunities would be created for the people of that area and the dacoit menace would be removed.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is no good school for the children of the employees working there. I request that a Central school be opened there so that the children of those soldiers who are working there may get educational facilities. Ex-servicemen should be provided with all the facilities under the 20-point programme. Similarly, it is the duty of every citizen of the country to see that the widows of the soldiers who sacrificed their husbands for the country and the children who have lost their fathers, do not feel helpless and orphans. Those children should be provided with all the facilities. It is our moral duty to attend to their education, shelter, livelihood, health and all other necessities of life.

In this context, I would also like to request the Hon. Minister that graduation degree be conferred on a student only after he completes one year's military training. In case that is not possible, they should be given training in the Territorial Army. This would infuse in them a spirit of patriotism and a sense of discipline. They would also

serve as a second line of defence. I am sure my suggestion would be considered seriously. At the same time, we must make efforts to defend ourselves and to combat the threat of nuclear war which is looming large. I would suggest that a committee should be constituted in this respect, the deliberations of which should be treated as confidential. The committee should decide which policy we should adopt in this respect. It should also be ensured that the ordnance factories produce defence materials in a proper way. Things are in a bad shape on the Jabalpur Gun Factory. The relations between the workers and the management there are not good and there is no discipline. Attention should be paid to that.

I would again urge the Hon. Minister that all those who laid down their lives in the Operation Bluestar should be honoured and rewarded and memorials should be raised for them. It is said about these martyrs :

*Shahidon ki Chitaon per lagenge har  
baras mele,*

*Vatan par marne walon ke wahi namo  
nishan hoga.*

With these words, I support the Demands of the Defence Ministry.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Banagara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, our Defence expenditure as percentage of the GNP has oscillated between 3.37 per cent in 1980-81 and 3.75 per cent or so in the current Budget. It is much less than what it is in the USA, USSR or even UK where it is around 5.1 per cent and in Pakistan where it is 7 per cent. But the per capita expenditure on Defence is around 8/8 5 U.S. dollars. While nobody questions the need for a large Defence outlay as a rich country of poor people with one of the lowest *per capita* incomes in the world, we have to ensure that there is economy in our Defence expenditure and absolute cost effectiveness in Defence spending. It is in this context that I view this debate which is of crucial importance and demands for a total Rs. 9216 crores do

represent a major chunk of our Budget and which we dispose of in as little as 6 hours.

That is why I had demanded on a number of occasions setting up of a Parliamentary Standard Committee to scrutinise Defence policies and expenditure which ought to meet at regular intervals and debate these vital issues. I may also recall that this was one of the recommendations of two important Financial Committees of our Parliament, the Public accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee in the recent pass, which have incorporated them in their recommendations.

India finds itself today in a strategic environment which is full of dangerous portents. The protagonists and apologists of 'Star Wars' have posed a basic challenge before all those who cherish disarmament, peace and goodwill. These are not only moral choices but for countries like India, it involves certain basic and compelling questions which affect its very survival. The threats to our national security remain. It need not be under-estimated. That is not to suggest that we should create a war psychosis in the country which is equally dangerous exercise. There has been a massive build-up of offensive capabilities of our neighbour, Pakistan and with acquisition of highly sophisticated weaponry. It poses many basic and fundamental questions and limits our options. Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear capability with assistance and connivance of certain countries inimical to our national interest have also added a new dimension but how is it that you do not want to name some of these countries in your Report? Because silence is golden and there is a story of the proverbial three monkeys.

The developments in the Gulf or the Indian Ocean also add to our security concerns. And then you have our great northern neighbour, China, which is undergoing a rapid modernisation drive of their society, economy and defence capability. As far as China is concerned, we have to evolve a pragmatic approach and our diplomatic efforts must be so designed as to normalise our relations with China and settle our border dispute. In this context, I must recall what late Gen. Thimayya remarked :

"Our basic security interests and national

interests/demand that these problems should be settled diplomatically rather than through military means."

These security considerations make self-reliance in Defence capabilities a top national priority and necessity.

But I find that increasingly, there is a tendency to go in for foreign collaborations even in technologies which can be improved upon here. There are many cases of duplication of technology also. I do not want to go into details. This happened because there is a hospitable environment in the economy for the import of such technologies.

I know that combat technology is a very dynamic area of development today and also a rapidly changing area of technology and I do concede that we cannot opt out, and we can opt out only at our peril. But it depends upon how we develop our own R & D efforts and we cannot do it with two and a half or three and a half per cent allocation, as pointed by Shri Surendra Pal Singh.

I am also conscious that it would depend also on our emphasis on research and development in the larger context of economy and industry. It is in this context that we must also assess the developments as in the case of a project like the Main Battle Tank—a project of the 'seventies and the 'eighties.

The MBT project which began as early as 1974, had a chequered history. Earlier in 1981, 1982 and 1983, the reports of the Defence Ministry had the same sentence, and I quote :

"Progress continued in the completion of the development work of various sub-systems of the MBT"

and then the prototype of the MBT was promised by your illustrious predecessor, who said that it would be ready by December 1983. Then the earlier General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) was scrapped and the new one drawn up in 1982. But the engine did not kick off and the project did not take off.

Now, cryptically, this year's Report refers, and I quote :

"Research and Development of Chetak—our planned Main Battle Tank continues."

I also hear from the Press, which is not shared by the Members in this House through the Report, that it has been rechristened as ARJUN. Is it the same, I would like to know.

Now it appears that it would be based on an imported West German MTU engine. What I would like to know is, what is CVRD that is, Avadi Combat Vehicles Research and Development establishment doing? Parliament is entitled to an answer on the level of self-sufficiency achieved in this project and also whether we would depend on imported content from the NATO countries in this project with all its attendant risks and implications with which the present Defence Minister—who has been handling our External relations with great competence—is only all too familiar.

I am not trying to say anything about our scientists, particularly I have tremendous respect and regard for Dr. Arunachalam and his colleagues, particularly those who are working in the DMRL in Hyderabad who has provided a metallurgical base for our Defence industry and Defence self-reliance. But the truth of the MBT needs to be told.

It is equally true of the project of the Light Combat Aircraft to replace our ageing Gnats. Why, we would like to know, is its development being left to an autonomous society?

And is it true that it is to suit the convenience of a British national who is involved in this society? More than Rs. 600 crores are going to be spent, but by whom and how? Earlier it was said that a Swedish model JAS 39 was identified. Now, I am told a Rolls Royce engine RB 199 which had problems in Tornado aircraft is being chosen and air-frames flown to fix this engine. Are we going to finance the development costs of British Aviation industry and get involved in the problems of RB 199, we would like to know. I want the Defence Minister to go into this question personally.

17.11. hrs.

[MR. SOMNATH RATH *in the chair* ]

The Army has played a crucial role, a positive role, not merely in defending our territorial integrity but also as a great factor of national integration. But the political leadership and the nation has to answer certain crucial questions at this juncture. The assertive trend is to rely increasingly on the Army for maintenance of law and order to which my Hon. friend and esteemed elder Mr. H.M. Patel referred to which according to the Minister in a reply given two days ago on 23rd April in the House is an increasing trend. In 1982-83 army assistance was sought on 82 occasions which increased to 96 occasions in 1983-84 and 175 in 1984-85. This unfortunate aspect of the trend has manifested itself in the "Operation Blue Star" where the Army had to go to the assistance of civil authorities. It is a dangerous trend to get the Army involved in such situations and "Operation Blue Star" should be a warning to us. While sympathy ought to go to the victims and the Army which was subjected to heavy casualties in this operation, I must say, it was an unfortunate decision that was taken to decorate some of the officers and men who acquitted themselves creditably in this Operation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Question.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : Such ceremonial decorations and honours should be reserved in future at least for performance in combat with an external enemy.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I am on a point of order. We are discussing in the House the Grants relating to the Defence Ministry. Now, we all know that the decision to take the Army to the aid of civil authorities is not under the purview of the Ministry of Defence. Is it permissible in the House within the rules to discuss the correctness, the judiciousness of the use of Army in aid of civil authorities in the debate on the Grants for the Defence Ministry ?

MR. CHRIRMAN : He is expressing his views. So, no point of order.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : These are very unwise views.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : I do

concede the right to have that opinion to my distinguished leader and doyen of parliamentarians and his friends; but I have my views.

Similarly our procedures for court martial have to be brought in tune with the spirit of the times. There are on an average 2000 court-martial cases in a year. On the procedure of court-martial, Justice William O'Douglas of U. S. Suprem Court had observed :

"Court-martial strikes terror in the heart of the person to be tried by it. While civil trial is held in an atmosphere conducive to the protection of individual rights, a military trial is marked by the age-old manifest destiny of retributive justice."

Even a soldier like Field Marshal Maneckshaw was about to be court-martialled in early 'sixties for an alleged indiscreet remark; and we would have lost this great soldier's services if his career had been cut short.

Army rule 173 explains how a person undregoin field punishment must be attached "so as to be standing firmly on his feet which if tied, must not be more than 12 inches apart, and it must be possible for him to move each foot three inches, and so on .. Even the remedies under section 164 of the Army Act have no meaning. Many High Courts have held that fundamental rights cannot be violated. That is why it was decided in the Home Ministry to have Lt. Gen. Hira Committee on 'Appraisal of Officers' Personnel Management.'" It suggested an impartial outside body for considering statutory representations, instead of allowing top brass to sit in judgment on appeals against their own decisions, a practice both unethical and hurtful to the principles of natural justice. I would like to know from the Defence Minister whether this recommendation would be implemented.

It is a highly risky trend to institute court-martials even against Generals on silly and frivolous charges which, under the civil law of the land, will not stand scrutiny. I do not want to mention names but the recurrence of this phenomenon has deprived the country of the services of many a good General. Generals cannot be manufactured overnight as the Military history shows, and all of them, we

have to remember, are human beings.

This is equally true of their pay structure. If many of them find that a job in the private sector or the public sector is better off, then we would be depriving ourselves of the services of better talent. So, our approach and treatment of officers and men have to under a fundamental change, as also that of 60,000 Ex-Servicemen who leave the Services every year. The State Governments are the worst culprits in this. The Nation cannot abdicate its commitment.

I want to refer to a major problem of motivation in our forces. While China has an indoctrinated army, Pakistan forces are motivated by the legacy of hatred. Therefore, it is important to provide motivation for our officers and men based on our nationally accepted goals. How can motivation be provided when a game of favourites is continuously played? I do not want to involve myself in a controversy. The country wants an assurance that the best soldiers do get to the top, as General Katoch in a recent brilliant article said, I quote :

“There are signs that flunkeyism is already growing into a creed and it may soon become part of the standard survival kit.”

In the changing landscape of offensive capability, Navy has acquired important dimensions. It cannot be allowed to remain a step child. Allocation for Navy has to be reviewed by a special committee and increased, to which my friend Shri Surendra Pal Singh has referred, and full support given to a massive expansion of our Naval capability. Therefore, while there is a national consensus on the need to exercise utmost vigil and the need to support our Defence Services and production apparatus, it can only be done when the accountability is ensured, and people are made aware of the inter-dependent role of Defence and development and national security.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, 23 Hon. Members have taken part in this debate and I am grateful to them for the very valuable suggestions they have given. I would like to assure them that their suggestions have been

taken note of and wherever we find that there is really some action to be taken on those suggestions, we shall pursue action.

The Report as well as the speeches very aptly started with a description of the security environment. To save the time of the House, I would not like to go into it in any great detail because on that point there is total unanimity in the House and I do not have to repeat it. It is true that the whole world seems to be living on borrowed time. We do not know when it will come to an end, how it is going to survive and who is going to make it survive in a manner which is consistent with the dignity of man. So, in all these uncertainties, it is obvious that every country has to look for itself, fend for itself and see whether its own survival is ensured to the extent it can ensure it, because ultimately survival of the entire humankind can be ensured only by those who are in a position to annihilate it not by others. So, to the extent possible, every nation has to ensure its own survival, its own defence. So far as India is concerned, our objectives are very clear. We are a peace-loving nation, for thousands of years we have stood for peace and we continue to stand for peace. Not only that our concept of peace is vastly different from what we understand by peace these days in modern parlance. Peace, according to us, according to our ancient sages and texts, is not just the absence of war, the absence of conflict; it is a high quality of harmony between man and his surroundings, man and nature, man and God, in the case of those who believe in God. So, that is our concept of peace and, therefore, we have been rightly struggling for peace. For ages we have been doing it and we will continue to do it. Besides, Sir, we are a non-aligned nation and there the rub comes in.

Several Members have asked me why this is not being done, why that is not being done, why our defence preparedness, according to them, is not what it ought to be.

The very reason why we are finding it difficult to get full cooperation in the defence field, is because we are non-aligned. And the reason why we should be vigilant and we should always be prepared is again because we are non-aligned. If we are not non-aligned, we do not have to bother for our defence. That defence would be under-written by somebody else. So, this is a vicious circle. A non-

aligned country which wants to be self-reliant in defence, has to struggle much more than a country which may claim to be non-aligned, but in its own way is able to get whatever it wants from some other country. So, non-alignment in the real sense is the problem, is our strength and also at the sometimes a handicap in getting whatever we want from wherever we want it. That is why our struggle in the defence field as a real non-aligned country, as a leader of the non-aligned world, is going to be much harder than that of many other countries. This is one point which needs to be understood while we are talking of defence.

Our defence outlays, as has been pointed out, have been, I must say, just what is possible under the circumstances. I would not say we are spending much more than we should. That is not my case, at all. We are spending what we can. This is my case, although there may be two opinions. Some one could say that we are spending too much, which is not at all correct, because, as Mr. Unnikrishnan pointed out, not only in relation to many other advanced countries, but even in relation to our neighbours whose preparedness is something which we have to be always noticing and taking note of, we are spending much less in terms of GNP.

At the same time I cannot possibly say that we must spend much more on defence alone, because there are three Ds in the progress of any country or even in the defence matters of any country. One is that Defence should be buttressed by diplomacy. Second Defence should be supported by development. Without development there can be no defence. So, these three Ds are so important and to strike a balance between them could become a matter of opinion, could become a subject of difference of opinion, but what I would like to claim in all humility is that the Government have kept all these three Ds in proper perspective and what we have been able to provide for defence is what can be done under the circumstances. It may be a hundred crores more or a hundred crores less, but it cannot be much much more nor can it be much much less. So, we are within the range of the possible; we are within the range of the desirable and we are within the range of what we think is a good spring-board for future increase wherever necessary for future development wherever

necessary. After all, whatever we provide as an outlay has to be properly spent. This aspect also has been very clearly stated by Members and I agree. When it comes to Navy, I am glad every Member has noted that our Navy has been given more than before. They have also said that it needs still more. Now, I would like to submit that while making these provisions, we have tried to consult, we have tried to find out from them what according to them is reasonable. May be they are not fully satisfied, but I know that they are not totally dissatisfied. So, we have tried to strike a balance between what can be spent, and to what extent we can modernise. And on modernisation we have made an outlay which will be found to be more than what we did last year, there has been a sizeable increase on the aspect of modernisation. For instance, in 1980-81 on the entire programme of modernisation we spent Rs. 621 crores, in 1985-86, five years later the provision is for Rs. 2178 crores. On R and D in 1981-82 we spent Rs. 76 crores which was 1.96 per cent of the budget. In 1985-86 it is proposed to be Rs. 300 crores, which is 3.66 per cent of the budget—still less than what it should be but more than what it was five years ago. In the same way Navy got Rs. 342 crores in 1980-81 which was about 8.83 per cent of the Defence expenditure; this year it gets Rs. 986 crores that is 12.03 per cent which is what one Member said, it should be. So we have come to a level where we can say that what Navy needs has been more or less met. But of course, there is so much to be done in the Navy and we are very conscious of it. (Interruptions) No, Sir. When it comes to modernisation there are several aspects, it cannot be stores or any one point. I shall take up these matters one by one particularly on the aspects of modernisation, and I shall try to show that whatever misconceptions have been there in the minds of Members are not justified.

Sir, for the last two days I have come across one common criticism that we are too secretive, that we are not really giving all the facts to the House. Of course, some Members were careful enough to say that they do not want all the facts, they want a little more than what we have told them Good. I thank them for not wanting to know all the facts. In fact there are some matters on which even I do not know all the

facts. There are some operational matters on which even the Defence Minister is not supposed to know all the facts all the time. So, there are layers of knowledge and ignorance in this. We have to put up with this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Only the spies will know.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : No. The spies also will not know because it is a question of espionage and counter-espionage going on, it is a battle of wits all the time going on. If you think that what has been taken by somebody or bought by somebody is going to hurt us permanently, this is not the case. It was not good of course, that certain information was bought by somebody. I agree it was bad. But if you think that something irreparable has been done to our Defence or anything here, that is wrong. This happens all the time. When it is a question of war, espionage and counter-espionage are going on by side. In fact there are persons who have been doing it both ways. This is there. This is very evident from the literature of war, war novels, books on war. So, this need not be made a point of debate here. While one has to accept this I would like to assure you that no irreparable damage has been done or will ever be allowed to be done wherever such mishaps occur. But in response to the desire of the Members, in response to the criticism that we are too secretive, I would like to say that since this criticism is becoming in what may be called uniformed criticism. I would like to say that there are many things on which there is no secretiveness on the part of the Government. You want to see the battle tank, I will show you. You want to see the Mazagon Docks, I will show you. You want to see the gas turbine experiment, I will show you.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : You are giving the assurances. You carry them out also.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The assurances are being given with a view to carrying them out. I would like to assure you that there is no question of being unduly secretive I am sure, the Estimates Committee, the Public Undertakings Committee and other Committees must have visited some of these institutions. I am quite sure about it. Where is the secrecy? Whether you are

members of those Committees or not, you can also see. I do not say that there is any need to be secretative in these things. In fact we would like you to see them. You see the *Arjun*, how it performs if you can understand anything of its performance. That is a different story. You can see how it performs. I have seen it. But I have not understood much more you can understand a little more than I could.

We are prepared to take you to these places. We are prepared to show you whatever is being done. If you really want to know the details, we will give you. Instead of just relying on some reports here and there, not based on facts ..

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have reduced us to that level.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Not me. You have reduced yourselves to that level. If you had written a small six-line letter to me, I would have give you all the details.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There is no question of approaching you because your predecessor could not give permission to me, nor could he reply to me while replying to the debate.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I would like to tell you that there is a real difference between making an announcement on the floor of the House and giving you the details whenever you want them. This difference has to be understood.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I know there is a difference. That much of intelligence you can afford to us.

SARI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : When you have so much of intelligence, I am wondering why did you not write to me.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I asked your predecessor and I said it on the floor of the House. He could not even give a reply to that. You can show us one or two show-pieces.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is my assurance to you.

**SHRI AMAL DATTA :** We want to see what we want to see, not what you want us to see.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** We are not going to take you on a conducted tour. That is not my desire. You tell me what you want to see. If I can take you, I will immediately take you. But if I cannot take you, I will tell you, that I cannot take you.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He wants to see something which is not desirable.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** That is possible. But I hope that sometime he will ask me to see something which is desirable. I am giving him the option.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) :** I am willing to take him to Ladakh to see Trishul in the month of January.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I would like to meet one particular conceptual point that has been raised by certain Hon. Members who have worked in the Army, in the Defence forces, and who are knowledgeable in that field. I would certainly like to tell them that while I respect their views in regard to the Chiefs of Joint Staff American system to be introduced in India, it seems to me, Sir that this is a process in which we seem to be denigrating our system and admiring their system. While they are knowledgeable persons among them, those who have worked as Chiefs of Staff, they are denigrating their system and admiring our system. So, it is a question of mutual admiration society and a self-denigrating process. I would like to refer Col. Mushran to some of these very important Generals. General David Jones gave evidence in the Congressional Committee and he said that their system does not work. After having been the Chairman of the Joint Staff Committee himself, he came out and said the system does not work and he catalogued a whole list of defects in the system. So let us not be in a hurry to admire something merely because we think

that it might work better than the system which is working here. Let us go into it with an open mind but until then, there should be no uncertainty about the system. There should be no impression created that we are going to change the system. So, let us be very firm on this that the system which we have here, will stay. In this, coordination is ensured and I can say with my little experience of the last two or three months, that this coordination is excellent at the moment whether it is R and D, whether it is production, whether it is the three Wings of the Defence : Forces, the coordination is being ensured and I may tell the Hon. Members that every week there is one meeting under my presidentship and we thrash out all the problems, all the difficulties and all the reporting is done to me. At other levels, they are also ensuring coordination themselves. Therefore, there is really no problem in the conduct of the three Wings and also their coordination with other Agencies. I would like to say that this point need not be laboured too much. It is true there may be several systems. One can study them in an academic manner. Yes. But, to ask for a change in the system here and now, or to ask for a decision to change the system, I think, would not be proper. Let us study it further and I have no objection on that. But the existing system shall remain until then even if it has seen ups and downs. It has stood the test of time and I do not think that there is anything seriously wrong with the system which would warrant a thinking on the opposite lines, that this system has to be done away with.

There are two things on which lot of semi-informed criticism has been heard, may be because of my so called secretiveness, may be because of other reports coming to the Hon. Members, whatever the reason, this is what has happened.

I would like to inform the House about Arjun, not the Mahabharata one. There is a history to this. I think the Members should know it before judging it.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN :** Is it Chetak or Arjun ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** It is Arjun. Chetak is a whole complex. We do

not have to call everything a Chetak. The helicopter has that name already. It is the whole complex.

This particular tank was named after the report was printed. We could not print another report.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : That is what we want to ask you.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The idea was not to call it Chetak. The whole complex is called, Project Chetak. So, the name seems to have been tagged on to the tank. It was not so. The intention was to find a separate name for the tank right from the beginning. Two or three names were considered and finally Arjun was considered. That is a small point.

The MBT was first sanctioned in 1974 at a cost of Rs. 15.5 crores. It is important to know that the original programme was based on utilising an imported engine. Unfortunately, none was available at that time.

On this point, I must tell you why it was considered not feasible to have an engine of our own in the tank, along with the tank. The reason was simple. A tank can be developed in ten years. The engine will take 25 years. Nowhere else in the world has an engine of this specification, starting from scratch, been developed in less than 20 years. And we were starting from scratch, let us face it. As I said, we were not getting either the technology or the engine itself from any quarter where it was available. Wherever it was available, we took it. That is a different story. That was a different engine, engine with a different specification. We wanted something else and when we wanted that something else, we did not get it. So, it was a challenge to our scientists. The tank was in sight. But the engine was not there. The tank was started in 1974. It was ready. The first prototype was ready in 1983 as was envisaged, but the engine was not there. So, what do you do? Will you wait indefinitely? Should you not really test the tank? Therefore, in the very first instance, considering the fact that it would not be feasible to synchronise the completion of the engine and the tank, the decision was : 'Yes; we will go ahead with the tank, but it will be tested with a foreign engine.' When we were having so

many foreign engines at that time...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Have we to import the gear box, suspension, gun control ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Wherever you get anything, you take it. The point is, the engine was not available...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should tell us all these details..

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : We will tell you all the details. I can give you all the information that you want. Whatever I have, I will give now. If I do not have same, I will give it you later. There is no problem about that. And when you go to Avadi to see it; I will put somebody on the job to give you all the information you want.

In 1980 when we revised the project, our scientists came forward to build the engine as well. It was a challenge to our scientists. They started in 1980, not 20 years ago, not 15 years ago, not 12 years ago, but in 1980, just five years ago. The engine will have about 1500 Horse Power. Look at the specification. The engine has to have 1500 Horse Power. If it had been 600, it would have been easy; if it had been 700, it would have been easy. But it is 1500 Horse Power. Why is this over-ambition? Because we want this engine and the tank to be operative and still the state of the art thing in 1995, 1996 until 2000.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Originally it was the MBT of the Eighties.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is precisely my point. As we went along, we changed the specification. We knew that we could not build another tank in another five years. So, there is nothing to be amused about. This is a very serious matter. I am planning for the Nineteen Nineties, the late Nineties until 2000. And there is no such tank in the world; just one or two at the most. We have got to have an engine of this power. Not too many countries have

produced it. I want to produce it. Now I am able to produce it. This is my second point, the next point. I have come to 500 Horse Power on diesel. With a turbo-charger, the power is raised, two to three times. This is known. This is a scientific fact. I am developing the turbo-charger in Bangalore at the GTRE. I have seen it. I have seen the tank; I have seen the turbo-charger. But the difficulty is, we cannot really run along with Members of Parliament as fast as they want us to, because this turbo-charger needs to be tested for 10,000 Hours. This is a difficult which I cannot help. When I went to see the turbo-charger in CTRE Bangalore, —for your information, I wanted to see it work—it could not work because the electricity was out. So, I had to see it in darkness. I have to go again to see it work. So, you can understand under what conditions this is being developed. One gets hurt sometimes to hear that we have been taking such a long time. In five years the engine has been developed. For another two or three years, not less than two or three years, —10,000 hours, mind you—we are not going to link it, we are not going to couple it, before we are absolutely satisfied that the turbo-charger works well, and it couples well. It is something which is going to remain for the next 25 years. I cannot take any chance on quality. Let me make it clear. Whatever the criticism about delay, I am not going to take any chance on quality. This is the position of MBT. The turbo-charger multiplies the power by 2 or 3 times. No diesel engine of this horsepower can operate without a turbo-charger. Our turbo-charge is being developed in parallel at the Gas Turbine Research and Development Establishment, Bangalore. ICA is also one of the points that has been raised.

I want to tell you that the ICA engine is also under manufacture and is under test. One proto-type has been manufactured already. I am told that in manufacturing another, they made some mistake and it was completely lost. So the third one is being manufactured. All this I am telling you because this is the natural sequence in an R and D process.

**SHRI AMAL DATTA :** Are you buying the Rolls Royce engine ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** No.

There again we are faced with the same problem. You manufacture the fuselage. You manufacture everything of the LCA, but you do not have an engine. How do you test it ? You have to test it on some engine or the other. For that test Rolls Royce has been chosen. It is only for the purpose of testing the engine because you have to test so many other things. In the MBT also we are producing about 6, 7, 8 or 20 proto-types and all the 20 will be put to 20 different tests. 3 are already there. Next week the fourth is coming and by the end of this year, another 2 to 3 will come. All these will not be show-pieces. Each of them will be tested by a different agency and under different circumstances. One will go to the deserts of Rajasthan. Another will go to some mountainous area. The third will go to some other agency. This testing has to be done over a long period. This is inevitable and whether we like it or not this is going to be the process and this shall be the process. No other process is possible.

**SHRI AMAL DATTA :** It is a most versatile tank ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** It is going to be among the most versatile tank in the world. Even the suspension is going to be one which has not been tried too often before.

**SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** West German engine is only for trial ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Yes, it is only for trial.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** I want it to go on record.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Is that so ? There is no difficulty in its going on record.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** I wanted to have a clarification.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** You have it now.

Something has been said about the Vijayanta tank and the power pack of Vijayanta tank. As you know, for Vijayanta tank power pack we are trying with two

engines. One is Kirloskar and the other is the Rolls Royce. Trials are being conducted. We want a new power pack for Vijayanta Tank. These trials, I am afraid, have not resulted in any definite conclusion so far because one engine has been found wanting in one respect and another found wanting in another respect. So retrials have been ordered. Hopefully by the end of this month or next month we will be able to make up our mind as to which is to be bought. But if both happen to be not acceptable, then we will face some difficulty. But we would like to solve that by seeing whether the MTU German engine can really do the job. This is a question on which I cannot give any definite opinion just now. But this is natural in a process like this. This is what I would like to impress on the Hon. Members.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** How far our technology has gone in this respect ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** This is what I am telling you. To the extent you can buy technology you have done it. To the extent you are to develop your own technology you are doing it and doing it very well. I would like to tell you in all sincerity that this is not a matter for scoring a point because on Defence there is no question of scoring a point. I am satisfied with the observation I have made during the last 2-3 months that our DRDO is working well. May be there is scope for improvement here and there. Nothing is perfect in the world. But then it is for us to go on finding out whether there is scope for further improvement. If there is one I am doing it myself. This is a continuous process. But let us not impute motives to persons. Even if about persons you have complaints I am here to take these complaints, I am here to look into these complaints. The Aeronautical Development Agency is presided over by me. I am the head of the society and if you feel that there is anything wrong about a person, about what is being done, you are at liberty to tell me. Why is it that it is a registered society and not a department of Defence Production ? For obvious reasons. The Department of Defence Production is hedged in from all sides by so many difficulties and so many rules and regulations. So I have a committee which has more flexibility—we have scientists on it; we have other

people on it; we have all the Wings of Defence services on it; we have people who can be consultants on it in several capacities—we can take the help of these.

**SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** Is there a British national on it ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** If you want I will give the whole list of names.

**SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** I know the name but I am asking you.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I will tell you the names of all the members. There is no difficulty. Here I get a bit of information. There is no British national working in the Aeronautical Developmental Agency. If you know the name, it means the name you know is not there !

Now, I would like to say a few words about the research and development projects. Field gun is being produced in numbers. Sonars and torpedoes and other special electronic systems have gone into production. I am not going into the details. I can assure the Hon. Members that all these hardwares are as good as any in the world and I would like to congratulate our scientists who are working in all these areas with zeal and enthusiasm. It is the experience of many nations and ours is no exception that R & D spending in defence improves the general technological and quality control consciousness of the country. Thus we have to be able to spearhead development and production of systems based on modern technology in the national sector through our investments and efforts on defence research and development.

About modernisation of the Indian Navy on which many Members have shown such keen interest I would like to say briefly that the endeavour in developing the Navy has been to secure the most sophisticated and modern ships, aircraft and equipment while at the same time catering for the most rapid and complete indigenisation feasible.

You know already that our Mazagaon Docks has embarked not only on the manufacture of frigates of Godavari class and Leander class but also submarines. I would

welcome any Members who would like to go and see what is happening there.

One of the most dramatic achievements has been the establishment of facilities at Mazagaon Docks Ltd. for manufacture of highly sophisticated SSK Submarines.

In terms of the naval capability which is being developed, apart from the induction of available sophistication in platforms weaponry and systems to the extent feasible, particular regard has been paid to its integrated and balanced development, and note has been taken of the reported induction and acquisition programme of littoral countries, in order that the Indian Navy maintained at all times a distinct edge over the capabilities which it may have to counter in the event of a conflict.

I don't think I can be more clear on this.

Now, Sir, about Perspective Planning, a few observations were made. In fact, contrary to what was said, I would like to inform the House that the Services and Departments are working on Perspective Planning. It is not somebody else who is doing it. It is they themselves who are doing it. They are working to—

- (a) Develop military strategic options, based on national security objectives, threat assessment and technological forecasts;
- (b) Forecast the future battlefield environment and guide the framing of matching, operational and logistic support concepts;
- (c) Formulate our future philosophy of weapons systems and major equipment in view of the threat assessment, strategy and technological forecast; and
- (d) Undertake matching planning in the fields of manpower, training and other infrastructures.

—This is the job chart with which Perspective Planning is being made.

The future battlefield environment would

be influenced by induction of modern weapon system into the sub continent. The latest technology weapon systems are available to them from the Western sources at concessional terms. Keeping this in view and the developments in technology that are taking place very fast, our futuristic requirement for weapon system will be intended to cater for more sophisticated battlefield environment with emphasis on the following :

- (a) Provision of greater mobility and fire power;
- (b) Vertical attack and envelopment capabilities integral to ground forces;
- (c) Tanks, infantry combat vehicles and logistic support vehicles with greater versatility and survivability;
- (d) Better, more secure and longer range communication facilities, incorporating futuristic technologies.

—So, all these objectives have been kept in view. I do not want to read the entire list. It is a long list. But what I would like to emphasise is that, what is being done is, what we understand by Perspective Planning. We are planning 15 years or 20 years ahead of our times. That means, if we are planning for something today it has to be operational—and effectively operational—at the end of the century. This is the view; this is the idea; this is the purpose for which our planning is done. Now, who is to be associated with this? At the moment, the experts and those who are in the operations themselves are associated with it. They are doing it themselves. Whether other scientists and certain others have to be associated is a matter of detail. We can go into it later as we go along. It has just started. So, let it go forward a little, after which we can see how it has functioned. We can have an interim report from them of what has been done during the last two years or so and then we can go into it. I am prepared to take the House into confidence at the proper time on this.

I now come to N.C.C. This has figured very prominently in the Debate. So, I think, a word is necessary. As is well-known, the NCC was established in 1948. When it was

established, the following were the objectives :

- (a) Development of leadership, character comradeship and the ideal of service;
- (b) Stimulation of interest in the defence of the country to the widest possible extent; and
- (c) Building up of a reserve of potential officers, to enable the Armed Forces to expand rapidly in a national emergency.

18.00 hrs.

Some very clear-cut objectives were given in 1948. Now what has happened—I do not know why it has happened—is that under Dr. G.S. Mahajani, a Committee was appointed. That Committee made a big change in the objectives. The Committee recommended changes in the objectives of the NCC which were modified as follows and this was in 1974 :

- (a) development of leadership, character, comradeship, spirit of sportsmanship and the ideal of service;
- (b) to create a force of disciplined and trained manpower which in a national emergency would be of assistance to the country; and
- (c) to provide training for students with a view to developing in them officer like quality thus also enabling them to obtain commissions in the Armed Forces.

Now, what has happened ? The net result of the change is stimulation of interest in the defence of the country to the widest possible extent—This has been removed. So, the orientation is changed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : There is a total dilution.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Well, you may call it a dilution. But I would call it a change. I would be neutral in that. But recently the Prime Minister has decided that the NCC has to be strengthened considcar-

ably. We are going to recruit or enroll at the rate of 10,000 additional Cadet each year. Naturally you see that for the last 10 or 12 years we have taken one direction. It may not be possible for us overnight to change the old direction. It will be too much of a strain on everybody. But I would like to assure the Hon. Members that whatever thrust, whatever emphasis is missing, will be restored in course of time and this is the decision. Instructions have already been given. The Director General will come to me with a plan and with that plan, at the appropriate time, I would come to the House and at that time I would seek the cooperation of the Members. Cooperation of the State Governments would be needed. So, I shall certainly come to you when the plan is ready.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the Commission ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : If we go in for a commission, we may take another five years. The point is : where, according to you, the dilution taken place ? We can certainly find out how has that dilution to be removed, how the old emphasis should be restored. But if you find that there are too many complications we can certainly have a Commission or Committee. There is no difficulty about it.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Can you tell us whether girls will be taken in the NCC and what is the proportion between the boys and girls ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : In the NCC, very merited boys and very talented girls are there.

Sir, I now come to ex-servicemen. Again the topic has very rightly occupied considerable time and attention of the House. I would like to assure the Members that this again is a matter in which we are taking special interest. It is true that a large number of our jawans retire at the age of 35 or 36 or below 40. Now, the question is : if you ask me to keep them until they are 58 or 60 ((Interruptions)). It is one of the suggestions that have been made.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I did not make it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You did not make it. Somebody else did. That is why I am disposing of the easiest question first.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : The suggestion was that after they have finished the services, there should be a system by which there should be an automatic absorption in the Central Government, public sector undertakings, State Governments and paramilitary units.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Now, as I just now said, there is a demand for their continuation in service. Although one suggestion on those lines was made, all of us are agreed that this cannot be done. They cannot continue upto 58. Do you agree or not? What is to be done after 35 or 36 or below 40, that is the point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : People at 58 cannot be called Jawans.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Yes, Now, Sir, I would like to give some information to the House in this respect. Quick implementation of the High Level Committee's recommendations is being attempted. One of the most important recommendations which Mr. Parashar and others referred to was the setting up of a Finance Corporation for the ex-servicemen. Now, while making this recommendation, I am not quite sure that the Committee was fully convinced of the feasibility of this. But in any case, I am not rejecting it. I shall get this examined and if there is any possibility and without causing too many complications to the ex-servicemen themselves, if this can be done, if it is found useful, we would certainly pursue action on those lines, as on the 68 and odd recommendations which they have made. They are all being examined and I am taking some personal interest in this. But as Mr. Parashar pointed out, all this is not just in the hands of one person. The State Governments come into the picture in a big way. I know at the State level what we did for ex-servicemen when we were in the State Government and how much trouble we have to take in order to protect the ex-servicemen from competing claims. If a piece of land had to be given to an ex-servicemen, there were 20 other categories of people who would come

and say : "We stand a better chance according to the law, according to the rules. So, we should get it and not he." It needs such protective action on the part of the State Government to give the ex-serviceman what is his due. So, this is what we have to do. I would like to call a meeting, if necessary, of the Ministers concerned at the State level and pursue action in whatever lines it is possible, I would like to assure you that this is uppermost in my mind.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Just one point. Whenever this question of preference and priority comes, you rightly said that when the claim is made by ex-servicemen, it should be given. But what is happening very often is that the prominent authorities go to various audiences and when they go to ex-servicemen, they say that ex-servicemen should be given priority; when they go to landless labourers, they say that they must be given priority; and when they go to Harijans, they say that the Harijans should be given priority. Once and for all, decide which is the priority among the priorities.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is what we told the State Governments; because it is the politician's prerogative. They speak in a forum according to the desires of that forum.

Sir, one thing we have come across and I would like to share it with the Hon. members. It has been our experience that at the age of 36 or 37, whenever we offer the ex-serviceman a job in the CRF or the BSF or in any of these para-military forces, the response is extremely poor. He wants a job, may be somewhere near his village, or in his village if possible. If he has a piece of land, he would like to go and settle there. So, because of this, the response is very poor. Even if you make it automatic, I am not sure that there is going to be better response. We will have to look into it. We will certainly take the suggestions given by the Hon. members. We have tried this. When I was Home Minister, we tried this last year. We found that the response was poor. So, we will have to find out the reasons and in what other manner we can help them. What I would like to say in brief is that I would like to help them in all possible ways. But the numbers are so large. We should not

forget the magnitude of the problem—60,000 people retiring every year. 60,000 is a large number.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much more time the Hon. Minister would like to have ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I think it is flexible, depending upon the patience of the members. I can finish within the next five minutes. (*Interruptions*). I think I have covered all the points. There is only one point which, I think, I should cover, and which needs a little elucidation; and that is about pensions, and whatever is being done in the Defence Audit.

I would like to inform the House that right now—yesterday today, i.e. for the last 2 or 3 days—we have been having a conference of officers of the Defence Audit. I would like to inform the House about some of the recommendations made by three officers. I am sure these are good recommendations; and we are going to accept them.

The present position is this : there are about a lakh of pensioners coming into the fold every year. These pensioners are paid in different ways. They are paid from State Governments' treasuries. The number of those who are paid from State Government treasuries is 6.7 lakhs, or roughly 7 lakhs. Defence pension disbursement offices—about 4.2 lakhs; banks—about 2.4 lakhs, and post offices—about 1.7 lakhs or 2 lakhs. So, different agencies are making these payments.

I have been discussing this with these officers. They agree that it should be possible, with the large network of banks in the country which we have opened, to make over this duty of paying these pensions, to the banks; and also to the post offices. But I am told that the post offices are charging about Rs. 2.5 crores from us for making these payments; and they are making payments once in three months. So, I will have to talk to my colleague, the Minister of Communications and persuade him to persuade his own people, to make use of the post offices, to let us make use of the post offices in a much bigger way, because we have about 5 lakh post offices in this country. There is no reason why this should be centralized, why a pensioner should

go 20, 25 or 30 miles to get his pension, go from pillar to post and face all the rest of it which happens. So, we are going to streamline it.

In Allahabad, where you have this office, I am told that all these individual files are stacked, and it is a job to find any file from that very big heap. (*Interruption*) We have now decided to computerize the whole thing. We will not need any of these big files there; and we have an age-old method of destroying files. Perhaps those of us who have worked in the State Governments know that there is a method of destroying the files. I just do not understand why these files have been retained in their original bulk. Each file could be reduced to one paper. That is what they are going to do when the computers are given to them. Some have been given. The only thing is that so far, I understand that it has not been found possible, because whenever it was attempted, some Members of Parliament had their way. (*Interruption*) My appeal would also be addressed to Hon. Members : This is being done in the interests of the pensioner. We are not going to retrench any staff. There is no question of any retrenchment; there is no danger of any retrenchment.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Whenever we send suggestions, you always file them. That is why the files become bulky.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Whatever the reason, this is the result. So, what I am saying is that this streamlining is going to be done in a big way, and I hope that after this is done, there will not be too many complaints.

The same thing goes for provident fund payments; and that office is in Meerut. We will have to streamline that office also. We are in the process of taking an appropriate decision on those things. So, I would like the Hon. members to rest assured that all these aspects are engaging our attention; and we will do whatever is possible.

AN HON. MEMBER : There can be procedure of sending the pension by post. That can also be thought of.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : There is some difficulty in payments by post offices.

Post offices are not paying them. What can we do ?

*(Interruptions)*

The idea is not to make them come; the idea is to pay them pension at a place nearest to their homes or in their own villages, if possible. This is the objective and we are travelling in that direction. I must thank the Hon. members for the patience which they have shown.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will you write to the individual members whose points you have not covered in your reply ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I think that has been my practice. If any important point has not been covered, I would write to the individual member on that point. This is what I would do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote :

The question is :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the accounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the order paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 18 to 23 relating to the Ministry of Defence.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**Demands for Grants for 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Defence voted by the House**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4		
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>MINISTRY OF DEFENCE</b>					
18.	Ministry of Defence	79,48,33,000	26,91,87,000	3,97,41,66,000	1,34,59,35,000
19.	Defence Pensions	84,74,79,000	...	4,23,73,96,000	...
20.	Defence Services-Army	7,97,84,70,000	...	39,89,23,55,000	...
21.	Defence Services-Navy	1,00,32,50,000	...	5,01,62,50,000	...
22.	Defence Services-Air Force	2,88,32,23,000	...	14,41,61,17,000	...
23.	Capital Outlay on Defences Services	...	1,54,25,33,000		7,71,26,67,000

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

*Eleven of the clock on Friday, April 26, 1985/Vaisakha 6, 1907 (Saka)*

18.11 hrs.

-----

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till*