

Chairman, Sir, in 1980 during the tenure of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Civil Aviation Minister had given an assurance to link Purnea with the third Air Service viz. "Vayudoot" and an announcement to that effect had been made by the Government. But that work has not been completed so far. Purnea is a border area and the Nepal-bound passengers go through Purnea. Purnea has local importance as well. I, therefore, urge upon the Civil Aviation Minister to make the Vayudoot Service available to Purnea and if it is not possible, the flights of Indian Airlines from Delhi to Assam or Calcutta should be provided with stoppage at Purnea on a trial basis initially so that the Purnea district could be developed economically and socially. Government had undertaken construction of an Airport at huge cost in this Northern belt of the country in 1962 after the Indo-China war from the security point of view. But that airport has not been completed so far and it is not being put to use. If it is put to commercial use, its importance would greatly increase from the social as well as the security point of view.

[English]

- (iv) Increasing volume of traffic from Kerala to Gulf countries and need to declare Trivandrum as an International Airport and to complete the work on Calicut and Cochin Airports

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : There is an ever increasing volume of traffic from Kerala to different countries particularly the Gulf countries and *vice versa*. But the facilities available in Kerala at present to meet the requirements of this growing traffic are very inadequate. A demand has been made for quite some time that the Trivandrum airport should be declared as an international airport. The reason behind this demand was that only if it is declared so, the facilities which are required in an airport like this would be provided. But the Government has not conceded this demand. The runway needs expansion to take in larger aircraft and other related facilities are required there to handle the growing volume of traffic.

Then, the work on Calicut airport has been delayed for long. This airport should have been ready at least a few years back. Similarly, the Cochin airport is in such a

condition that it cannot be developed due to lack of space etc. Of course, the Government has promised another airport, but if the delay that is occurring in the completion of the Calicut airport is an indication, then the promised airport at Cochin may not be ready for a very long time.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take the following steps immediately:

1. Declare Trivandrum as an international airport and undertake its development.
2. Complete the work on the Calicut airport within the stipulated time.
3. Provide adequate funds immediately to start the work on the Cochin airport so as to complete it within a shorter time frame.

[Translation]

- (v) Need to take out a tributary from Sone Irrigation Canal from Ghana to Pareb in Patna District

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, irrigation facilities for 30 to 40 villages falling between Patna Protection Embankment and Sone river under Vikrma Police Station of Patna District are not available. If a tributary is taken out from the Sone Irrigation Canal from Ghana to Pareb, people would be benefited thereby. The Central Government should get this scheme cleared from the Planning Commission without delay and instruct the Government of Bihar to implement the same. This would bring prosperity to the poor people of that area.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1985-86

Ministry of Defence—contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up further discussion on the demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : At the outset let me pay on behalf of my party our sincere tribute to the Indian Armed Forces consisting of three wings, for its excellent record or service to the nation. Let me also pay our regard and appreciation for the Army for its strict observance of aloofness from political influences and its absolute

detachment from politics. The Army also deserves praise for not allowing any one of the divisive forces based on religion, race, region, caste and community in any way to interfere or influence its dutiful functioning.

Operation Blue Star, some critics expected, would create a dent in the unity and oneness of the army. Fortunately, it did not do so. It is true that Operation Blue Star did affect the superficial tissue of the army in a minor way. But by and large, the morale and discipline in the army has been quite high. Prompt action was taken and this small scar was immediately cured. We are happy to note that this unfortunate operation of the army has not created any sort of disturbance in the high standards of the army's functioning. But this Operation Blue Star has certainly sounded a warning bell namely about the undesirability of using the army frequently for purposes of maintenance of law and order. We know that the army enjoys universal popularity. In the opinion of the public, the army evokes feelings of patriotism. Army is common and its image of universal popularity must never be impaired by frequently calling it to maintain law and order and discharge the policing duties. It was mentioned in this House that the army was called to maintain law and order for 175 times last year. This is absolutely undesirable. Even yesterday there were headlines that Ahmedabad has been taken over by the army. This will not be in the interest of the unity and health of the army or in the interest of the democratic functioning of the nation. It will be a slur on the democratic functioning of the nation if we are frequently using the army for the maintenance of law and order. I suggest that the policing must be entrusted to some other agency, other than the army, because the position of the army is unique. As I said, it must not create any impression in any section of the people that it has been an instrument for suppression. Now by calling the army often to perform policing duties, naturally, it becomes controversial because it is bound to affect some citizen or the other. Don't put the army against the civilian or the citizen. Army must be made use of for external aggression and for warding off natural calamities. It may be made use of for developmental purposes and for coming to the rescue of the nation in times of need. The army has been a bulwark of our secular and democratic functioning and

it must be kept so as an instrument protecting the democratic and secular functioning of India. As I submitted, if the Home Ministry wants, it can forge another instrument which can maintain law and order if the local police fails to do so. Call it BSF, call it anything, but don't make it a part of the army. This is my first submission so far as the functioning of the army is concerned.

Coming in the Budget, I must say that unfortunately it is routine and dull. The Report submitted along with the Budget also is monotonously routine and has been repeating what it has been repeating to this House year after year. In the Report there is practically nothing. We have seen colourful pictures therein. The Defence Ministry knows that the Members of the Lok Sabha do not have the expert knowledge to understand the intricate questions of defence, but still there is no important information given in this Report. We are, of course, informed that the Army has attained self-sufficiency in Army docks. We are also informed that a decorated helicopter named Chetak performed elephant dance on the Rajpath on the Republic day. We are very grateful to the Defence Ministry for giving us such valuable information, but we want to know about the type of weapons, we have purchased, the quantum of weapons we have purchased, the countries from whom we have purchased, for what reasons we have purchased and the deals, who are responsible for the deals and why these deals were entered into. We do not have any information about this in this Report.

Now and then we read that there have been some unfortunate accidents in the Air Force. We do not get any information with regard to these accidents in the Report. We do not also get any information about what the remedial measures have been adopted. We do not get these information which are very necessary for us to know. The Defence Ministry's persistent superstitious belief that the military secrets will be exposed, if the Members of the Lok Sabha are taken into confidence is certainly unfounded. It will be in the interest of the Defence Ministry, the country and the Armed Forces if the representatives of the people are acquainted with and are able to know and discuss the problems of defence in proper perspective.

Now, I come to the security environment of the nation. The first Chapter in the

Report is devoted to this. Everybody knows and much more so our Hon. Defence Minister knows, because he was the Minister for Foreign Affairs that national security cannot be assessed in isolation, because it is intimately and intricably connected with the global security. We also know that the factors which are now affecting our national security flow from the Super Power rivalry for areas they influence in this part of the Globe. If we carefully analyse the present factors which are affecting our national security, we will find that it actually began some years ago with the fall of the Shah's Government in Iran, the subsequent Government's hostility to America, the unfortunate episode of hostages, of American people in Iran, the tragic failure of the commando operations to rescue them, the take over of Afghanistan Government by Karmal Babrak with the aid of the Soviet Union. All these events form part of the chain, the action and reaction on the other side and the occupation of Diego Garcia by one of the super powers : and its active collaboration and assistance to its only ally left in that region *viz.* Pakistan, which on account of this active collaboration has reaped a bonanza of \$3.2. billion package deal. It has resulted in the overflow of arsenal with the most sophisticated weaponry which is now existing. We also know that on account of its closeness with the USA it has acquired collusively nuclear capability.

One of the most important problems which the Defence strategists of nuclear power countries have to face is what we have to do and how we have to react to this new situation of Pakistan acquiring nuclear capability. This problem has been discussed by academicians and scientists at certain forums and the general opinion is that India must not foreclose, its option to acquire nuclear capability if there is a clear proof that Pakistan has acquired it. Of course, there are people who clearly say that Pakistan has already nuclear weapons in its bases and that it can make use of them at any time. Whatever may be the position now, we know fully well that we have to take a very critical and very serious decision on this aspect and it is for the Defence Minister to say whether they are going to foreclose the options and stick on to their original policy or they will review their options and keep them open for a future date.

As I submitted, our national security is

intimately connected with the global security. In fact, the very first sentence in this Chapter I is :

“There has been a perceptible deterioration in the international situation making the world more insecure than it was last year.”

Last year also the same picture was painted, rather a more alarmistic picture was painted. But it is necessary for us to have a very close look at the global security position because Defence budgets are always comparative and competitive. We cannot assess our own Defence budgets individually and in isolation. It has to be looked at in the perspective of the world position today, the snpper-power position today and the situations that are likely to develop tomorrow and day after tomorrow.

So far as the nuclear weapon powers are concerned, the NATO and the Warsaw Pact headed by the two super powers, the position is that they are not prepared to resort to nuclear war. This is on account of the fact that the pros and cons of nuclear war and its disastrous results have been discussed nationally and internationally by academicians and scientists and by one and all and the scientific conclusion is that it will lead to Mutually Assured Destruction, what is known as MAD. This has been brought about by what is known as TTAPS or the report of Dr. Carl Sagan on a discussion which was held in the “Washington Forum on the World Wide consequences of Nuclear War” which was led by Senator Kennedy and Senator Hopkins. As a result of this there has been a growing momentum of world opinion in favour of banishing nuclear weapons. The Doctrine of Nuclear Deterrence stands overruled. The advantage of Nuclear First Strike theory has also been disproved. The limited use of nuclear weapons and detonation between what is called “Threshold” quantum also is found to be unpracticable and unsafe. Almost all the scientists in the various disciplines have confirmed that a nuclear war will certainly end in the dreaded nuclear winter which will destroy humanity and human life and other life in the Northern Hemisphere as well as in the Southern Hemisphere.

Sir, President Reagan in his address to the U.N. General Assembly on the 21st September, 1984 said :

"We recognise that there is no sane alternative to negotiations on arms control and other issues between our two nations which have the capacity to destroy our civilisation as we know it. I believe this is a view shared by virtually every country in the world and by the Soviet Union. We need to find ways to reduce and eventually to eliminate the threat and use of force in solving international disputes."

He committed himself to concrete practical measure to enhance mutual confidence. Earlier, in the U.N. Regional Conference for World Disarmament held at Leningrad in June 1984, the spokesman of the U.S.A. affirmed. "We firmly believe that Nuclear War can never be won and must never be fought."

In his address to Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building measures and Disarmament in Europe on 6th July, 1984 the Secretary-General said :

"In recent years, the sense of Security from war has become more fragile. Fear has become each day's companion, prompting ever greater investment in weapons which are themselves a major catalyst for fear."

He said, "fear has become each day's companion, prompting ever greater investment in weapons which are themselves a major catalyst for fear". This is the most important statement because this sums up the position, the global security position today.

I would like to stress in this connection my conviction that the defence policies should be developed and implemented in such a way to assure other parties, including adversaries of no aggressive intent. There can be no mutual confidence in Nations, in the presence of mutual insecurity. Mutual confidence cannot take firm root in the face of growing arsenals of sophisticated weapons.

There have been series of events on Disarmament under the U.N. aegis, including an *ad hoc* committee on the Indian ocean in August, 1984. Mikhail Gorbachev in a recent statement to *Pravda* has said :

"It is urgent and necessary to end the arms race. The development of the international situation has reached a line, when the question arises where further can we go. Is it not time for those who

shape policies of the State, to stop and think, and prevent the adoption of decision that would push the world to nuclear catastrophe."

Thus we find that in all international forums and in all public statements, the super powers and their allies have been declaring their commitment to peace, arms control and freezing of nuclear weapons. But in reality, as disclosed by Mr. Martensan, the Under-Secretary General of the U.N. at the Leningrad Conference on World Disarmament Campaign, "the arms race is costing the world almost 2 million dollars a minute. Furthermore, in many countries, Government spend more for military pursuits than for education and health care combined. World military expenditure is estimated to reach a trillion in 1985."

It was also estimated that the increase in the year 1983 of the world military outlays alone could have paid for giant strides against disease, extension of literacy and eradication of malnutrition and establishment of schools on a massive scale in the Third World. This variance between declared intentions of political objectives on the one hand and the performance on the other gives credence to the criticism that the military industrial juggernauts on both sides are impervious to the deliberations of statements and strategies and that they are dictating the policies and not *vice versa*.

Military industrialists in the Western countries have vested interest in the arms race. Mechiel Garbachove has recently indicated this contradiction of American stand as follows :

"Everybody has heard quite a lot about 'Star Wars' announced by the U.S.A. I would describe as fantastic the arguments used for militarisation for outer space. They speak about defence, but prepare for attack. They advert to the space shield, but are forging a space sword; they promise to liquidate nuclear weapons, but in practice build up these arms and perfect them. They promise world stability but in reality strive to undermine the military balance."

It is clear that the arms industries in the world, that is, in America, Western countries including China, want customers; they want clients. In fact, it is estimated that 1 in every

7 persons in America is engaged, directly or indirectly, in the military industrial complexes. It is true that all the statesmen are for peace; the overwhelming majority of people are for peace. But, as I submitted, it is these vested interest, that are dictating the policies and not *vice versa*.

The fear, as the U.N. Secretary-General said, has become an everyday companion. There is vested interest in fear also because it is on account of fear that the Asian countries are made to purchase sophisticated weapons; the Gulf countries are made to part with their petro-dollars to purchase the latest machinery. The race in purchasing the sophisticated weapons will not stop because from year to year there will be another latest. So, these countries will have to purchase the latest weapons and forgo their petro-dollars of their foreign exchange so that the military industries in all the Western countries can be kept alive. This is the stark fact and we have to take note of it. In spite of all these things, it is very well known that these countries will not resort to any immediate clash. Of course, the latest position is that we are entering into the Star Wars era.

Now, coming to the Demands proper, the position is that we are following what was followed last year. It is the same amount except that there is an increase of Rs. 511 crores or Rs. 600 crores over the last year. As a matter of fact, this constitutes about 15 to 16 per cent of the total allocation. It is not that much. But, unfortunately, the freshness of outlook that is to suit the newest position has not been there. For instance, we know that Sino-Indian border has pulled down. The dispute between India and China is no longer acute. During the last 10 years, there has been practically *status quo* but yet we continue to guard our Himalayan borders in the same way as we did in the past because we will not forget our 1962 experience. It is admitted that the Indian Ocean has become very hot.

As a matter of fact, there was a Starred Question today in the House. But, unfortunately, it did not come up for being answered. The Question was by Shri R. M. Bhoje on U.S. military bases in Indian Ocean. It reads :

“Whether on the pretext of safeguarding its interests, the USA has

sent a fleet with 30 military bases, 1500 warplanes, 80 warships and three atomic submarines in the Indian Ocean.”

I expected that this Question would be answered. But, unfortunately, it was not answered because it was not reached. It is already reported that Indian Ocean has now become strewn with nuclear submarines. Now the emphasis has to change from the North to South. It cannot be guarded unless we increase our naval force and strength. The allocation to the Navy is only Rs. 600 crores which is Rs. 100 crores more than that. Let us not forget the fact that all our Port towns are major industrial centres. They are all located on the coastal line and it is essential that we must improve the naval force. Rs. 600 crores is not enough, we are in the process of putting our indigenously manufactured submarines into operation.
(Interruptions)

The second point is with regard to integrated approach. It is what is called air land warfare. Last year, there was a criticism that we have not re-organised our three forces to meet this new situation on air land warfare. Last year, the Defence Minister Mr. Venkataraman said that he had actually seen the combined operations by the Army as well as the Air Force. But still, the criticism is persisting that we have to re-organise to meet this challenge. I may be permitted to read a portion of what one critic has been saying and he has said very recently :

“The depth of the battlefield has expanded to an extent that would have been unthinkable in the recent past. Nothing underscores this more vividly than NATO’s doctrine of “Airland Battle” in respect of both conventional and nuclear warfare. Underlying this doctrine is the “deep strike” strategy aimed at exploiting the new advanced technologies to strike at adversary forces hundreds of miles behind the front even before they have moved.

To believe that it would be some time before this doctrine becomes operative in South Asia would be to live in a fool’s paradise.”

(Interruptions)

The re-organisation of three there forces to suit this new technique of three dimensional warfare has to be effected.

So far as the defence planning is concerned, (*Interruptions*) we are sanctioning Rs. 8,200 crores. This Defence Budget costs the nation about Rs. one crore per hour. We have discussed what has happened in Ahmedabad for hours together.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Others also will take part in the discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Defence is a very important subject. I do not want to make a speech. Let me mention points. Now the Defence planning is confined to the Defence Ministry only. No experts are called for. Now the actual art of warfare has completely changed. There are so many disciplines in science and technologies involved in warfare. The Defence Secretary is ultimately to be the President of this Defence planning. A Defence Secretary can remain there for one, two or three years. He is merely an IAS officer. Defence has become a technical subject. Therefore, Defence planning has to be on uptodate and modern lines. (*Interruptions*)

It is also essential to form a National Security Council embracing all these things.

With regard to modernisation of weapons, I must congratulate that we have recently brought into operation our new battle tank Arjun and we have also indigenised Arjun tank.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They have shifted Shri Arjun Singh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : The performance of the ordnance factories is all right. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : I am concluding. New ordnance factories are proposed to be opened in Medak and Bolangir. But there has been a rumour in Andhra Pradesh that the ordnance factory for which foundation stone was laid by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi is not going to be there and that it is going to be shifted. About Rs. 1200 crores are allocated to on-going projects. (*Interruptions*) We do not want any rearrangement or shifting. They have to stick to what has been stated in the Report. The Report does not say that any part of it is going to

be shifted. The Report shows that these two projects are going to be pushed through and that they are going to be completed. It gives us the impression that they are going to be completed within the shortest possible time. I hope it will be done, and the Defence Ministry will stick to what is has stated in the Report.

In the end, I would conclude by saying this. Fortunately, we have got Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to lead this Ministry. He ably led the Foreign Affairs Ministry during the last five years, and with his intellectual equipment and experience, we hope the Defence Ministry will come forward with absolutely new and fresh schemes next year. Defence and Foreign Affairs are very intimately inter-connected with each other.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the strength and stability of an edifice depends on its foundation but the foundation is not seen by anybody. Similarly, the common man does not know how our Motherland is defended. Our Armed Forces are always ready to race the heaviest odds whether they are posted at the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas or the desert areas often visited by duststones or the coastal areas devastated by cyclones or tidal waves, and they defend the borders of our Motherland with sincerity, loyalty and faithfulness. We are indeed proud of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every one has to die one day. Cowards die many times before their deaths. The Valient never taste of death but once. Our Armed Forces defend our country at the cost of their lives. Our Armed Force personnel are ever ready while defending our Motherland to embrace even death to frustrate the evil designs of the enemy. They pray to God to give them enough strength so that they may be able to fight the enemy to the last drop of their blood.

Although our Armed personnel face such odds while defending our Motherland, yet the salaries that they get are meagre, compared to those of the civilians.

Since the British times, our Armed Forces have been placed in group 'D'. That was the time when we had horses in our Armed Forces and our infantry used to have very

ordinary weapons. But now the times have changed. Now our Armed Forces use big tanks and sophisticated arms and ammunition and also maintain them. Still they have been getting group 'D' salaries. I would request Government to increase the salaries of our jawans and officers in armed corps the infantry, the Air Force and the Navy.

Our officers of the rank of Lt. Colonel get about Rs. 2000 to Rs. 2500 whereas the salaries of the civilians range between Rs. 2500 and Rs. 3000. Civilians perform eight-hour duty while the military personnel remain on duty all the 24 hours. Civilians enjoy one hour lunch-break out of their eight-hour duty and also go for tea a number of times, but in the army no such rest can be availed of. They have all the love for our Motherland and are ready to sacrifice their lives in defence of the Motherland. They have no family life. Their life is meant for the service of the nation. In spite of that, no attention has been paid to increase their salaries and other facilities. I would recommend to Government to pay due heed to this matter.

In the battlefield, our forces have to face anti-tank mines and anti-personnel mines. They know the sacrifice involved in passing through them. They stand face to face with the tanks of the enemy and when they are ordered to advance they do so, unmindful of the consequences. They do not shirk their duties. In 1965, we had seen how our armed forces had destroyed Pakistani tanks. The Government had decorated me with 'Veer Chakra' in recognition of my services in the Army during the Indo-Pak war in 1965. These awards reminded us of the gallantry of our soldiers.

The Armed Forces of our country had won 12 'Victoria Crosses' in the First World War and several 'Victoria Crosses' in the Second World War as well. In the 1965 and 1971 Wars they got 'Paramveer Chakra,' 'Mahaveer Chakra' and 'Veer Chakra'. But it is regrettable that after retirement our servicemen are appointed as *Chowkidars* by the *Banias*. It is indeed very shameful for us. I would recommend to Government that some separate pension should be sanctioned which should not in any case be less than Rs. 1000, for these awardees in recognition of their meritorious services.

I have one more suggestion to make. The tanks in our Armed Forces should be fitted

with armaments of the latest designs, wireless equipment and laser system so that they could give a befitting reply to the enemy in the battlefield. These tanks should be automatic and capable of making first round fire. If we make the first round fire and the same is missed then the enemy would fire back upon us, to our great loss.

We impart training in this respect for which we need training aid simulator. We have only one simulator in our armed corps at Ahmednagar Training Centre which imparts special training to save our tanks. I would request Government to have at least 10 such simulators for DNM and ten for Gunnery in our armed corps. This will help us save on ammunition as also our tanks and enable us to provide training to a good number of people. I would recommend to the hon. Defence Minister to pay due attention to this matter.

The uniforms provided to the crew of the tanks and to other army personnel are not fireproof and may catch fire when a person is on duty at the tank. They should be provided with anti-fireproof Dangris so that in case of fire in the tank, the lives of our crew working on the tank may be saved. Dangri is a very ordinary thing which we can produce in our country. Now our force have been modernised. They should be provided with the latest weapons. The personnel in the infantry should be provided with all the facilities that are provided to the Armed Forces. They should be provided with 'compo-ration' as they have to remain without food and water for days together. They take part in the exercises and the operations. So, they should be provided with sufficient ration. Previously, they used to get "compo-ration" but now it has been stopped. That "compo-ration" should have medicines and food which may be sufficient for use for 72 hours. If an atom bomb were to be used during a war, our tank contingent is the only contingent which can meet that situation and defend our borders at that time. The Arjun tank which we are going to manufacture would have provision for the use of atomic energy.

In our country 50 to 60 thousand people get pension and they go from pillar to post in search of jobs. When they serve the nation with sincerity and faithfulness, they deserve some consideration. As such, their retirement age should be increased to 58 years and they

should get their full salaries up to 58 years. The Army personnel should after retirement be appointed on security duty in Government offices.

The salaries of our officers are very low. Their salaries should at least be doubled. There was a time when a Britisher used to be appointed as officer while we Indians used to be appointed as Jawans in the Army. The Government should provide free ration for all and not to certain categories of Army personnel only.

There is no difference between high and low now. Officers and jawans both feel the winter equally. Therefore, they all should get the same hill station allowance. If our jawans are provided with ration and hill station allowance at par with that for the officers, that would help foster unity among our armed personnel.

The gratuity, pension, etc. of the Army personnel should be worked out before their retirement. At present they have to wait for as long as six months for their gratuity, pension etc. The Government should pay due attention to this matter. It should also be ensured that they get their pension regularly. Our Army personnel defend our Motherland at the risk of their lives. For example, if the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, had one of us as her guards then we would have saved her by facing on our chests the bullets that killed her. A military man has such sentiments and feelings for his Motherland that he feels that the slightest God shall not forgive him if he shows slackness in his duty even for a moment. A soldier is aware of the fact that God sees all his actions and therefore we should not be derelict our duty towards him. A soldier is ready to sacrifice even his life for the sake of his country. He feels that he will get salvation only by performing his duties diligently.

*Khudi ko kar buland itna keh har
takdeer se pehle,
Khuda bande se khud pooche bata
teri raza kya hai.*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the very sensitive speech given by my colleague.

First of all, I share the feeling which Col. Mushran expressed yesterday in his speech that we pay our tribute to those

personnel who in the last financial year have sacrificed their lives for the national unity and security.

Sir, we are discussing the defence budget at a crucial time. We see threats to our country's security from all sides. I don't say that it is the maximum as of today, but threat to our security is there.

Significantly during the last few years our nation has achieved a reputation in the world by its leadership in NAM and hosting of CHOGM conference in Delhi. This has given irritation to some of the super powers. It is because our country has emerged as a force to reckon with. The officials speeches of some of the Government officials of Bangla Desh, Pakistan and Shri Lanka clearly show their intentions. Outwardly they have spoken something. But internally what is going on in those countries is a matter of concern to our Government today.

I am happy that Government has stepped up the Defence Budget. We should consider the induction of arms in neighbouring countries. Similar techniques were adopted in other countries, particularly, in the middle east countries and the south-east Asian countries. In all these countries, arms have been inducted. These are the same type of arms which are being given to our neighbours, which could be used against us at the time of requirement. There are arms like the Missiles, F-16s, etc. They are given to countries like Taiwan with the intention that they can be transferred to neighbours at any time where they can use them without any training. US nuclear weapon supply to Pakistan is a fact. It has come out publicly so many times. This matter has also been pointed out in one of those discussions when some other country's representatives visited Pakistan. As per the Symington law, any country, which has nuclear capability, is not to be given any military and economic aid. A senator in America has moved a Motion in the Senate which clearly says that any country which has got a nuclear capability is bound not to have military and economic support from USA. I remember that President Carter imposed this law during his time that any country having nuclear capability will not have military and economic aid from the United States. But when Reagon become President of the United States, he waived it off especially in the case of Pakistan.

It is a fact that China is also giving design technique help to Pakistan for nuclear weapons. This has also appeared in the newspapers of the United States of America. This subject has also been admitted for a discussion in the Senate. Under such circumstances and under such prevailing conditions all around us, we have given a budget of Rs. 8,200 crores,

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

I will not go in details about the allotments. But 15 per cent out of the total budget is allotted for modernisation of our arms. With just 15 per cent allotment, how can we modernise our army, when we want to face those countries or when we want to prepare ourselves against those countries? If somebody were to ask as to how many F-16s Pakistan will have, I think nobody, even the President of Pakistan can give a reply, because the availability to him is more than his requirements. So, I feel that the percentage of modernisation must be stepped up, because this is too meagre a percentage for our services.

As a soldier if you ask me, whether we are prepared to face any challenge, I would say, Yes, we are prepared. But as a Member of Parliament, I personally feel that we are still not in a position to face a challenge or a threat from our neighbours. Seeing our preparations or seeing their capabilities, we are still not a match to them.

Sir, Army has been modernised. My colleague has mentioned about tanks. Weaponary has been modernised. Still we are reading in newspapers regarding armed helicopters with gun fortress or fitted with empty tank missiles, which I think, is still a food for thought as it has yet come through and still pending.

As for the air-defence preparations are concerned, we are still lagging behind with regard to low level techniques or low level detection. I had been insisting upon this point every time. The systems available with us are much inferior to our neighbouring countries. Every time we discuss it, we hear that proposals are in the pipeline. But nothing is given on that subject, specially on low level quick reaction missiles and low level radar detection system. These are a few important things to which Government must

give priority and get them cleared.

Regarding air-transportation fleet, we did talk about it in the last Budget also that we are replacing the old aircraft. Some of them have been replaced by AN-32 but some of the aircraft, especially the Packards are still flying. I wish the Defence Minister takes a flight in a Packed at a high attitude level flying and I think that he will certainly feel like replacing them as soon as possible. It is a very old aircraft and frankly speaking, if we are given to move today, if we move one Division of our Army from East to West, I doubt with our present capabilities, whether we can move one Division of Army within the required time. So, that air transport fleet has to be taken care of. We have to replace these aircraft with better ones.

Sir, it is only after the 1971 war, that Navy came into the picture. Before that, Navy was a force, which was just a force, but after the war, we did think of modernising our Navy and I am happy that this time a reasonable amount has been earmarked for naval equipment and for modernisation of the system.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The allocation is reduced.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : No. allocation is increased. It is Rs. 934 crores according to my figures.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND PLANNING (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Yes. That is right.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is good that Navy is being taken care of. We still require to pay some more attention to Navy's modernisation. My point of suggestion to the Defence Minister is that there are a lot of problems in getting the systems cleared. We think of buying an aircraft today, which is very suitable to our system, which is very suitable to our requirements. But by the time it materialises it becomes obsolete. We have got to simplify the system, so that the required item which has been recommended is bought at the right time. We think today that the aircraft is very good and suits our requirements, but by the time it gets through from all the channels, it becomes, I would say not obsolete, but a late equipment.

So, I would request the Defence Minister

to evolve some formula, whereby those projects which are proposed by the Services to the Government get through at the right time, and according to the right procedures. In respect of both these projects, last time when we discussed the Budget, a promise was made by the then Defence Minister—*i.e.* in the matter of low level missiles and the radar systems. He said them : “We are considering them, and soon they will be taken care of.” But this has not been done.

The main reason why I pointed out this system, which I had mentioned in my last speech also, is that arms are being purchased from different countries. I had suggested last time that Government must negotiate directly with those people. What is happening to-day is that we purchase arms through arms agents, or arms-dealing agencies. And it is very clear that if you buy a certain amount of arms, there is a fixed percentage which is given to those people. So, when you select arms, there are people who lobby for that particular arms, and people who are not for it. These lobbies delay our procedure a lot; and because financial procedure is involved in it, sometimes intentionally or unintentionally decisions are delayed. I had suggested that if Government bought arms directly from the concerned countries, it would be good. Whatever be the commission, you still do not write off that commission. You keep that commission. You put that commission into a different Fund. You call it a Defence Services Fund or Defence Welfare Fund or the War Widows Fund, and you put that money into that Fund. Thus you can help the Services in the matter of their welfare, and also help the nation to buy the correct arms without any intervention by wrong agencies.

Last time that they had agreed that they would certainly consider this proposal. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take up this proposal once again with the Government, and if it is feasible, we must get on with this.

About communications, we have read the Report. We have progressed a lot. They make use of satellites and computers for surveillance, passing on information and for de-coding messages. This has to be stepped up. Our communications are still slightly lagging behind in the Services, especially in hilly areas, where channels are not available;

or the communications are not of the highest order.

These are as far as the Services modernization techniques are concerned. Now I have a few suggestions regarding the welfare of serving personnel and ex-servicemen. I had mentioned that earlier, and I am repeating it now : 20 years back, if you get up on a Sunday morning and see the matrimonial columns in newspapers—I remember that we were bachelors and we used to read them in 1967-68 the advertisements would inside particulars of a girl given by the parents. In the end they used to write : “Service officers preferred,” or “Service personnel preferred”. To-day, if you read the matrimonial columns, you will see that they say : “Service officers need not apply.”

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Is it so ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am stating the fact. I am not hiding anything from the House. I must total things very frankly. I can give the cuttings, where it is clearly written, “Service officers noted not apply.” I do not blame them. The conditions have deteriorated a bit. There is no doubt about it. I do not blame the father of the particular girl, the family or the parents. Conditions have deteriorated a bit. I do not blame entirely the Government, and say that it has not done anything. Government has done a lot. But due to circumstances... (Interruption) So, I say that we have to do something for them, so that further deterioration is stopped. If you see the entries during the last 2 or 3 occasions, and study how many people used to apply earlier for service Commissions, you will see that their number has since come down.

I remember the occasion when the late Pandit Nehru took the salute at a Passing Out Parade in N. D. A. He said then : “The cream of this nation is passing through the gates to-day.” Has that cream after 15 or 16 or 20 years of service really become unemployed ? Sufficient attention and care have not been given to this aspect. So, we had suggested a few steps, and Government was kind enough to appoint a high level committee in respect of ex-Servicemen. We have gone from State to State, district to district to hear the problems of the people and recommended to the government. So,

I will not go into details of each problem because everything is compiled in that small Report. So, I would request the Defence Ministry to clear that Report and let it be laid on the Table of the House so that the Parliament can pass it and we can implement it because the backlog of roughly 30 years is there; it will take us at least two or three years to get it in rotation. Or if the government is going to take more time then the implementation can be started in stages; some portion can be started this year; some portion can be started as per the financial resources of the government.

Now onwards, whatever little you give to the services—I would not compel you to give more—whatever resources are there which the government is capable of giving in the form of concessions and facilities to the ex-servicemen, please monitor them at the district level because you give them on paper; you pass everything in the South Block; but it does not reach block headquarter or tehsil headquarter. There is use of giving that concession. Till monitoring system prevail's for them, they would not be benefit from it.

There are directions by you; there are policy letters given by the Central Government. When they reach the State Governments, they become a baby of nobody; and they do not bother about implementing them. You have to find a solution for it where at least service people, defence people are there. It is binding on the State Government to follow the instructions of the Central Government. Some method has to be found out. Otherwise, now, we have one report; after another 15 years, if the procedure is not really taken care, again there will be problems of the same nature.

At the moment, we have at the District Sailors-Soldiers Board a retired service officer. Now he is retired he is not interested. He goes there at 10 A. M. He gets taken money as pay. If you put a serving officer at that Board incharge to look after the interest of the retired people or retired ex-servicemen, he would have some control over it. Now, a retired officer is sitting there. He comes at 12 P. M. If somebody goes there, he is not available. But if you put the serving officer as incharge of the system in the district headquarter, half of the problem will be over. Then he will be able to get in touch with the authority in a

better way than the retired person.

Regarding medical facilities given to the retired people, I think they are supposed to have these facilities as their right. What we can do is that at the district hospital—because MH you cannot open everywhere; you cannot have military hospitals in each district—if a few words for the ex-servicemen could be fixed in consultation with the Defence Ministry and State Governments, that will be a great boon to those people because they have to come from 200 to 300 miles to get themselves checked up in the military hospitals.

You are planning to have a separate security force for the airport—national and international airports. If you give it to the ex-service people, totally recruit them, can also be a boon for them.

I had requested about handicaps and the war widows. Frankly speaking government today cannot say how many war widows we have in this country who are not settled. We have asked this question from the Ministry. No State Government is maintaining any record of war widows who have been helped or who have not been helped. At least war widows, who really deserve sympathy from each citizen of this country, from each government, irrespective of any party, are also not settled still; their cases are pending. Government must take care of them.

A cadre review has been done. I personally feel that sometimes this cadre review diluting of command responsibility does come up. What I feel is that something should be watched by the Ministry. When a person is fit for promotion—I have gone for the welfare of the personnel—and there is no vacancy existing, I feel he should be given a higher scale. Then he is satisfied that he is fit but as there is no vacancy he is given a higher scale and financially he is not a loser.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Only last two points. One is corruption is recruitment. There is lot of corruption in the recruitment. In the Air Force they tried out a system and rooted out corruption. In the Army also corruption is there in the field or recruitment. The system tried out by the Air Force, which is a simple system that involves a simple procedure, may be adopted by the other

Services also. I would request that the other Services can also follow the system. There is no denial that the system tried out in the Air Force had worked. Last time. I caught the concerned people and the case was registered. So if that Procedure tried out by the Air Force is adopted by Army and Navy also, corruption in recruitment can be eliminated.

Speaking about reservation, whatever reservation we have for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, just as the vacancy meant for them is not filled by SC/ST candidate and it is carried forward, so also whatever concessions are extended in the public sector and public undertaking for the ex-servicemen should be kept for them to absorb them. Such vacancies should be carried forward and the ex-servicemen should not be deprived of them. The last point is regarding accommodation. When an ex-servicemen gets into a Government job after retirement from his service in the Forces his service is not counted for accommodation. There are many people...**...who have worked in the Forces, who had worked for 20 years in the Army, Air Force or Navy but when they join civil service that portion of the service is not counted. This is an injustice to them; because they retire from the Services after a long service, at the age of 48 or 49 and they have grown up children also. If you do not give them priorities in other things, at least their past service in the Forces must be considered for purposes of accommodation.

One more point is about petrol subsidy. We had requested the Government last time—a proposal was given to them—that 50 litres of petrol should be given to ex-servicemen just as serving personnel are given the same at a subsidised rate. It will help the ex-servicemen a lot. Already the Government is given free ration and free accommodation also, I am told. I only ask for this petrol subsidy. I will not ask for more perks as my colleague has done but I would like them to be given in kind only. Because when you give them Rs. 200 or so, about Rs. 150 is taken away as income-tax. I therefore want these things to be given in kind only. That will boost up their morale also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI

(Howrah) : I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Defence. First of all, I like to pay my tribute to the Jawans and officers who laid down their lives in the defence of the sovereignty of this great land as well as for national unity in the recent past.

Similarly, I like to pay my tributes and I like to salute them for the successful Indo-Soviet Mission of Sayuz T-11 which was launched on the 3rd April, 1984, with Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma and Wing Commandor Ravish Malhotra. It has created a new vision for all of us and for the young scientists of the world also. From this successful mission our next generation will learn more and we can also do further research in Space also.

In the earlier days, we faced serious challenges, in 1984 in Kashmir, in 1962 on the Chinese border, in 1965 in the Western front and again in 1971 in the Western front. ON all the occasions the Indian Army and the collective command of Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Army proved to be worthy of the nation for showing their unflinching loyalty to the Mother, to the Nation and to the people of this country.

The pride of the country is that we have not only institutional democracy but we should also admit today in the House that the successful implementation of the democratic programmes and preservation of the democratic methods of this country was only possible because of the contribution of the Army in the country who never bothered for politics but only for their loyalty to the Mother and to the Nation. It will continue to gain much more strength in future. Most of the developing countries also should preserve this tradition. Therefore, I once again pay my tribute and salute the Jawans and the officers and the collective command of the Indian Army in this country for helping us to proceed further for the democratic institutions to be preserved and the democratic movement to run.

I would highlight a few aspects in the Budget. I am sorry to motion that it has become a practice for the last few years to treat our Navy and Air Force absolutely on a different pedestal from that of the Army. When I look at the map, as a student of geography I find that India is the only country in the world whose four borders are

cordoned with positive threats to the integrity and sovereignty of the country. Let us see in the west. We have seen from 1948 how the American weapon and artillery titled the strength of Pakistan Army in order to pose a threat to the sovereignty of India. In the north, there is the Chinese border. In the south there is the vast Indian Ocean and you know better the machinations of the United States imperial forces in Diego Garcia. In the east we felt that we were in peace. We always want to be friendly with Bangla Desh and that the people of Bangla Desh and India shall remain together for years to come. But the fact remains that the Chittagong Port is now in the desk of the United States and China for their joint clandestine operations in the Bay of Bengal.

On the eastern front also we cannot keep quiet. So, the recent happenings in Shri Lanka, the positive threat of the United States in the Indian Ocean specially in Diego Garcia and the machinations of the Chinese-US axis in Chittagong Port give us every reason to believe that the Indian Navy must be more strengthened than in the past. In the present situation I am not satisfied with the budgetary provisions for the Navy. Of course, modern war is fought by the Army on the land. But the strategic war is faught in all possible manners by the Air Force and the Navy. The Navy and the Air Force in India are not that much srrong enough in the budgetary provisions as they should have been. Affer seeing the happenings in Shri Lanka and overtures of the United States and the United Kingdom towards Sri Lanka, I am of the opinion that we should have provided more resources for the Navy in this Budget. Why I say it is because we have not sufficient coastal guards in it. For the last two months, at least on nine occasions, Sri Lankan Naval patrol killed our fishermen and we could not protect any of our fisherman. We lack in modern gun boat and modern patrol ships. In spite of that, we all talk of making the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. At the same time, we cannot keep quiet. In the Bandung Conference, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru also preached world peace. He also preached peace with China. Even after preaching peace with China, you know how we were repaid by them in 1962. I only wish that the same thing may not be repeated in the Indian Ocean by the machinations of US and UK. For that I once again insist

that the Naval Budget should be increased in future. If you do not do it, there will be a reasonable apprehension in the minds of a large number of people in the country and also the littoral states, who are friendly with us and this will aggravate.

Very little has been provided to the Research and Development Section. You have provided only less than 2 per cent of the budgetary provision for this. With such a meagre amount, you cannot go in for research. If you go to France, West Germany, U. K. and U. S. you will find that their rasearch innovations are giving much more strength to the Army, Air Force and the Navy, considering the strategic balance of the other nations whereas in India the provision for research is less then 2 per cent. Excepts paying off the salaries and meeting other establishment expenses of the Headquarters, I do not know what additional work they can do in research wing. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to increase the budget for the Research and development wing of the Defence Ministry in future.

I will now deal with a subject only concerning NCC. While I was a student in schools and college. I was very much attracted by the army people. In those days it was a compulsory training in NNC. I remember I was a student of second year in the college when China invaded India in 1962. From Pahalgam, Jawaharlal Nehru gave a clarion call to the people to unite, and the Minister of Defence gave a call to the studens to unite and to strengthen the second line of defence, and the training was made compulsory, those days there were two kinds of training, one was called Annual Training Camp where the students used to learn a little bit two arms and ammunitions and other skills, and the second was known as the Social Training Camp where the students used to build roads and support dams and do other civil works and take part in other defence activities, I do not know how suddenly a training called NSS came up and diluted the whole concept of NCC in this country. If you look at the last ten years, since when the compulsory training of NCC was abolished you will find that the character of the college and university students has deteriorated. The students are rustive. They do not feel involved in the nation-building task. Those were the days when a cadet used

to feel proud of being a student of a college because it was because of his being a college student that he was taken in NCC. He used to feel proud in saying that he is going for this camp and that camp. More so, there used to be examinations frequently. Certificate 'A' was given in the school, then Certificate 'B' was given in the college and Certificate 'C' was also given in the college. After passing Certificate 'C' examination, one used to feel proud that he had learnt something to defend his country. I do say so because I myself have done it. I have completed all these trainings and feel how the ideology of NCC imbibed among the youth was building up the character of comradeship, devotion to the nation and patriotic spirit. I am sorry to say that this is no more there. We just see a few contingents in the Republic Day parade, collected from various parts of the country. Nowadays, the training concept has diluted to that stage. We feel we are scouting only and nothing more than that. Therefore, once again I would insist that NCC training should be made compulsory. Look at any part of the world, even in United States. Younger generation do feel proud to be associated with some kinds of activities of the army and air force and navy in their youthful days, they feel involved in defending the country. That feeling is lost now. Therefore, while the Education Minister will formulate the national policy on education, I would request the hon. Defence Minister to see that NCC is kept as a regular syllabus in the schools, colleges and universities, and those who successfully pass the NCC examinations, should be given grace marks in all other examinations so that there is charm and attraction in NCC training. Students can exchange a lot in the NCC camps. I tell you that when we used to attend the annual camps, we used to meet the Naga boys there, we used to meet the boys from Gujarat, we used to meet the boys from distant parts of the country. We came to know each other and felt that we were one. Therefore, I suggest that national integration camps of the cadets should be organised in Punjab in the present situation. Such camps are permissible under NCC. Let the cadets from the various parts of the country go to those camps and mix with the cadets of Punjab and feel that they are all one in the nation. These are the teachings of NCC which we are missing nowadays. The pride of NCC those days

was that those who passed Certificate 'C' examination, used to tell their parents that they were going to join the army because they Certificate 'C' holders were standing good chances in the army. The other day I raised a question and the reply I got was that only 10-12 boys were taken out of some 300 and 400 'C' certificate holders. I request you to give reasonable chances to the 'C' certificate holders for direct recruitment as Senior Commissioned Officers in the army. Then you will not have to recruit the boys by advertising in the newspapers, you will get the right type of persons from the universities and colleges. The officers who train the cadets are good people and they know the whole art.

Another thing I would like to highlight is that along with the college teachers who are imparting training in NCC, some regular army personnel should also be associated to guide them effectively and properly. It has been my sad experience during the university days that those professors and teachers who were giving training, used to find it convenient to disappear from the ground and to attend to more coaching classes.

So, they were to rely only on the Jawans, Havaldars and Subedar-Majors. Therefore, I would request appointment of regular Army personnel in every university to coordinate that activity.

With great sympathy I would like to say a few more words for the Jawans. If you want to see in whole of India how a flower after getting blossomed is just destroyed and burnt, here is an example when the Jawan retires and goes back to the home. It is pathetic, Nobody can explain the plight of their sufferings when they go back to the home. They enter the Army at the age of 16 or 17 and contribute their full vigour and youth to the service, of the country. And when they go back at the age of 40 or 41, they feel isolated. When we enter our career of the service, they go bank home and hover about on the streets. This is pathetic. I quote a poem which reminds me of their sufferings :

"Good Bye"

The olive green leaves

Dig enemies grave

At the dawn of their spring

They enter the field

They march and sail and fly

Under the blue sky

When the flower is blossomed in air

They retire leaving the gun behind

They retreat bugle cry

MID DAY SUN BID "Good Bye".

So, I would request the Hon. Minister to consider this aspect and at least increase their age of retirement. While we, politicians, can rule even at the age of 90 years and even try to become Prime Minister and the President of India can also be of that age, why the Jawan of the nation cannot be in the Army upto 58 years of age? I do not subscribe to this policy. If there is such a policy, change that policy and make a new policy in regard to this. What is wrong with it. You are just contributing to their frustration and nothing else.

In regard to the ex-Servicemen's children, I would suggest you to open more Army Medical Colleges, more Army Engineering Colleges exclusively for them in every district and provide them educational facilities. With the quota that has been fixed for their children it is very difficult for them to get entry through normal education channels. Even the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas is very less. In Bengal, there are many instances where hardly any ex-Servicemen's child can get a chance.

Lastly the Brigade Parade Ground of Calcutta is in the command of the Army. That is a major and important ground. Our Panditji delivered speeches there. Mrs. Indira Gandhi made her historic declarations on Bank Nationalisation and also her support and solidarity with the struggle of Bangladesh people from that ground. I would request the hon. Minister to rename the Brigade Parade Ground of Calcutta as Indira Maidan. That is the ground wherefrom main declarations were given.

With these words I once again pay my tribute to the Army and I conclude.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): My hon. friend from Telugu Desam has already anticipated me to a certain extent. Last year when I initiated the debate, I said the Defence debate has become

an annual ritual serving no meaningful purpose so far as discussion on the nation's security is concerned. I repeat that and support what my hon. friend from Telugu Desam has said. We think that we are in a democracy. So, if we are in a democracy and follow a democratic model which has been set before us by the Western democracies, particularly the Westminster model.

In the Westminster model there is a standing committee on Defence as well as in other Ministries, which can discuss in detail all the defence requirements of the country, the threats faced by the country, what kinds of armaments they require and should manufacture. And similarly, in USA and other democracies this is discussed. So, we should also have such a standing committee. This is a demand which the MPs from the opposition have been making year after year, but the Government on one pretext or other have refused to accede to it.

Last year the answer of the Defence Minister was that since the Parliament does not make a rule to that effect: where is the power of the Defence Minister to provide for a Standing Committee? I say, it is just the reverse. If the Defence Minister wants, he can get such a rule passed by Parliament and constitute a Standing Committee which should go through all the requirements of Defence and only then we can have a really informative debate on Defence. At the moment, neither the people of India nor the representatives of the people are allowed to know what exactly are the threats facing the country and how we are supposed to tackle the threats. This is a very curious situation because our democratic pretensions stop here. We have a colonial style military administration and that style remains in spite of 37 years of our Independence. Last year I said it and it bears repetition because it was not replied to by the Defence Minister, that I wanted to go and see a tank repair establishment near Delhi and I explained to him that I wanted to see it because I heard of the abuses of facilities by officers there. Instead of repair of tanks something else is going on there. He could not give me the permission to visit that factory. I mentioned this in my speech, but he could not reply as to why permission could not be afforded to M.Ps. This is the situation in the case of most Defence establishments—M.Ps. even cannot see them, certainly not the ordinary people. At least

those of us who are supposed to speak here and pass the Defence budgets should have some opportunity of seeing what has been done with the money which has been granted by Parliament. We are not even accorded that facility. We know this country has been suffering from ad hocism so far as Defence planning is concerned. Although there is something called the Defence Planning Committee since 1984 but this Defence Plan is really a compilation of the demands made by individual Branches of different Services and not an integrated plan which is made by all the Services people working together. This plan has to be made not by the Service people making their requirements but after an analysis of what is the security environment of the country and what is the totality of the threat perception, and that is to be integrated with the requirements and then the capability has to be planned. There is no such mechanism in the Defence Department. We have always demanded, every year one M.P. or another demanded, that such an institution should be set up, an institution which not only comprises of Service people and bureaucrats, but also academicians and scientists. People from outside the Government should also be involved in it and they should together analyse the current security environment—internal and external—of the country—internal is also very important as things have developed after the Blue Star operation and all that and then, after that, threat perception is properly analysed and the capabilities of the countries marked as 'enemies' have been perceived, only then can we define our requirements and then seek to achieve that capability. Without that, what we are doing is really ad hocism.

We are following a policy that for example, Pakistan buys 40 F-16s, we should buy 40 Mirages or something like that. This is called reactive policy—we are reacting to what our enemy is supposed to be doing. Three times we have gone to wage a war with Pakistan and that is the only country, we think, which is our primary enemy. We cannot follow what China is doing although our friends have been saying about Chinese threat. We do not have any idea of Chinese capability, but even if we know, we cannot think of even matching their capability. We are told that they are having 5000 Jet planes.

So, we are not thinking in those terms. Regarding competition with Pakistan, we are

always having a glare of publicity. Whatever arms Pakistan is acquiring, either by purchase or as gift from the U.S.A., certainly we should be concerned about them because Pakistan is not alone in the game. It is an outpost of U.S. imperialism and therefore whenever Pakistan acquires arm we should take due note of that. But what is the capability of the arm which is being given to Pakistan or Pakistan is being allowed to purchase in spite of the Symington Clause. In spite of that, clause they are overlooking the fact that Pakistan has now possibly acquired the nuclear capability. They are letting it buy those U.S. arms which other countries are not allowed. At least, India would not be allowed.

Now, we are following this *ad hoc* policy. I am told that the glare of publicity is given when Pakistan is getting F-16s or Tanks or TOW missiles or Hawkeye or battle field surveillance aircraft. All these attract glare of publicity. It immediately occurs to me that we are going to buy something more. This publicity is very much motivated. The publicity is a means to panic the Indian people for buying something else, whether this is arranged by the Government or by the interested people in the Government or people outside, *i.e.* the people belonging to various arms lobbies, I do not know. But it is for the Government to tell us. If there is such a body which I have suggested, that body will be able to know what is the capability of the arm which Pakistan is acquiring, F-16 is no more than a name. Similarly, XM Tank is no more than a name. What actual capability Pakistan is acquiring and how we should all plan and counter that would be examined by this body. Our arms acquisition policies have always been not only reactive but some what futile, as Mr. Pilot says. I support him on the question of acquiring the Jaguar planes. We first thought of acquiring Jaguars in 1971 or 1972. From that time onwards, we started negotiating, thinking, negotiating and dithering. Ultimately, we signed the agreement, I think, in 1978 and we started getting them from 1980 or 1981. This is a plane of the early 70s which we started getting in 80s. By that time, it become obsolete. Now, it is a low-flying deep penetration aircraft. Now what is the role of the deep penetration aircraft in today's warfare? In today's warfare, electronics has developed to such an extent that this low flying plane is no

longer something which can avoid detection. There are radars available which can now detect the low flying aircrafts. The radars which are looking towards the height at which the low flying aircraft flies can detect the aircraft. In any case, I am told that some equipments are available even with the infantry men by which they can detect and shoot down the planes. It is because they can track them down and shoot them with just missiles which follow the aircrafts. Probably we did not think ahead. We did not have any perception as to where the world is going to move in the 80s. We acquired the plane of 70s. It is really obsolete and Mr. Pilot is very right here and I support him. We have got Mirage. Some have been delivered to us. Our pilots are being trained. But the induction of Mirage into our Air Force aircrafts will take another three years or so. I do not know what is the capability of F-16, whether the Mirage will be able to match F-16 or not. I do not know even the Mig planes which we are manufacturing here or which we are planning to manufacture here can match it. What is its capability? Will they match with the F-16s? With some upgradation, some changes etc., in the Mig planes, can they possibly match F-16s? I am told that the Chinese, when they were friendly with the Russians, got the Mig-17 or Mig-19 an earlier version.

They went on manufacturing and upgrading it. Now they have a fleet of 5000 aircraft which are sufficiently upgraded to be able to defend their country. They are not afraid.

We are acquiring something from outside but we are not able to upgrade that. We had the best planes in the '50s and 60s' and those planes were all right. We were assembling the planes and to some extent, also making their parts here. But we have not been able to upgrade them. There is something wrong. The people are always saying that you put more money into R and D. My question is: What R and D we have been able to achieve?

All the members before me from the ruling party so far have spoken about the Services. As MPs we certainly are very much concerned with the salary and the service conditions of the members of the Services, the recruitment policy, the ex-servicemen's conditions, etc. But the members who have spoken before me come from the Army and

Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi comes from the National Cadet Corps. So, they are much more knowledgeable in the subject than me. I will not speak much about it except how we have tried to improve the service conditions of members of the Services when they have been stagnating in the Services, leading to demoralisation of the officers. But instead of having another Pay Commission and getting their recommendations, what was done was a cadre review. That is not enough. The cadre review has not solved any problem. What is happening is that instead of stagnating at the position of Major in the Army, the officers will stagnate one stage higher-up. They will stagnate anyhow. The small increase which is required to be made has to be made through a proper procedure like having another Pay Commission. That should have been done and, if necessary, a separate Pay Commission for the Services could have taken care of the problem.

The quality of officers has deteriorated. That has to be admitted. The man is more important than the machine. Whatever Pakistan is acquiring, even if we have slightly inferior arms, we will be able to counter that by having better quality officers. It was true at one time. It may not be true today because we have not taken care of the recruitment of the Services as we should have done. Moreover, today the battle, whether it is on land or air or sea, is no longer a battle of muscle to muscle. It is not only a question of bravery on the field. It is a question of technical ability. We should give proper attention to the engineering and technical service which we have not done. We have stopped the promotions and technical people at a certain level. They can go only thus far and not beyond. They cannot go to the topmost rung. I am not saying that they can supersede and become Chiefs of Staff or something like that. But they should have an equal position in ranks as the field people.

Air Force is a very important wing of the Services. There have been, unfortunately, a number of accidents. There has been a committee appointed to inquire into the accidents. The Lafantance committee was appointed in August, 1982 to inquire into the accidents which took place from April, 1977 to August, 1982. There were 213 accidents. During the four months which the committee took to make their recommenda-

tions, there were 49 more accidents. On an analysis of these accidents, the Committee found that 41 per cent of accidents were due to human error. 137 accidents, to be exact, were due to human error. It caused destruction of 20 fighters, 15 trainer aircrafts, 5 helicopters and 3 transport planes. The human error was ascribed to indiscipline in the Air which was due to inadequate flying skill and knowledge of the pilots.

Contrary to the eulogies usually showered on the Services, the rate of accidents of the Indian Air Force is one of the highest of all the major Air Forces in the world. It happens to be 3.8 per 10,000 flying hours for fighter aircrafts.

This human error can be eliminated by proper training and proper education of the pilots and also by proper maintenance.

The other factor is the engineering knowledge and skill of the technicians. The pilots and the planes both are valuable and we cannot afford to lose any.

The Ordnance Factories have been put under a Board which was constituted in 1980. (Interruptions)

These Ordnance Factories have possibly no in house R and D arrangements. As a result of which what has happened is rather pathetic. We have been making Shaktiman trucks but we are still importing the engine blocks of these.

In spite of our repeated calls for indigenisation from this House, the Defence Minister has been repeatedly saying that they have been going in for indigenisation. They have been saying this for the last 25 years but they have not been able to make the engine blocks of Shaktiman trucks.

I request the Defence Minister to look into this problem. It has not been receiving the attention of successive Defence Ministers.

We should not depend on any other country for this basic requirement. 95% of the production the Defence Production Department are results of collaboration or they are made either with imported technology or with parts which are imported either in the form of components or assemblies.

The reason for this is that in the Defence production as well as in the Ordnance Factory and in Defence R and D, there is no

accountability. We have been development certain items of armaments for long time and we have reached nowhere. For instance, we have been manufacturing main battle tank in the CVRDE for a number of years. We have always been told we are on the threshold of making a breakthrough in this tank. It was said the year before last. In 1983, the Defence Minister in his reply said that before December, 1983 the tank will be developed and it was developed by importing the engine which we could not develop. The defence specification was to develop an engine having 1500 h. p. Instead of that, we made an engine which could only develop 400 h. p. as a result of which we had to import a German engine and we made a prototype of that. Not only that. We publicly gave an award to this institution, CVRDE for developing this prototype which was then called 'Chetak' and which is now called 'Arjun'. Because the horse power could not be developed, the name of horse was perhaps dropped. Because the gun is being manufactured here and Arjuna was a good marksman, perhaps the name 'Arjun' has been given. It is a good idea for the Defence Minister to have renamed this main battle tank. This has given us a lot of trouble. Ultimately what we have to do is this will go on record and the Defence Ministry will be able to check four years later. . . (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : 'Chetak' is the name of helicopter.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I remember that was the earlier name it came at least in papers. It may not have come in the Defence Minister's who only speaks once a year.

We have ultimately got to manufacture, so far as MBT is concerned, the engine, the gear box, the suspension and the gun control.

We have a 'night vision' also, I am told In the television on 19th and 20th this was given publicity that we are developing a tank with night vision, which can fight during day and night, and that it is being manufactured in Dehra Dun with imported parts. This is the self-reliance in Defence.

Then I come to the LCA—Light Combat Aircraft. This is an idea which we had been toying with for a long time, for more than ten years. Ultimately Government sanctioned the expenditure in 1983, if I am not correct. Please correct me later, if

I am wrong. I think, it was only Rs. 600 crores. But this amount of Rs. 600 crores is the initial value of the project cost. Total estimated value today being Rs. 1500 crores. A peculiar thing has happened. This LCA was under development in HAL first and they could not get anywhere because of the fact that the design engineer there, rather the Managing Director of the Design Department, was found to be a person who was not a person he claimed himself to be in the sense that he was a person who did not have the Degree which he claimed to have. This has all come out in the Rajya Sabha question-answer. Of course, Mr. Rao has said that he has the Degree that he claims to have. But I have with me a copy of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.'s list of officers where the Degrees are given. One of the qualification claimed is Diploma from Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in aeronautics and there is also copy of a letter with me—I will lay it on the Table of the House—which says that there was no such person by that name. I am not naming him now because I have not given notice. But by that name, they say, there was no such person. Therefore, this was a fraud and because of that there has been no development. And the person who could develop and who worked under him has been suppressed all along. An advanced Jet trainer aircraft has been designed and its documentations submitted to Government in July, 1984. This trainer aircraft is what our capability will allow us to manufacture. I am laying a photostat of the model on the Table of the House. But, since it will overshadow the LCA, it has not been allowed to be manufactured. On the other hand, this person—I am not naming him—this fraudulent person, is being kept associated. A new agency has been created called the Aeronautical Development Agency registered as an autonomous society. It is that Society which will now oversee the entire project; whatever the HAL and other combinations which come into it do will all be supervised by this Agency.

The Defence Minister has stated in the Rajya Sabha that there is no such person associated with ADA. It is not correct. The Defence Minister will kindly make an inquiry. I am laying this on the Table of the House which show the person's name—it is marked

here—and says that he has no degree or diploma from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, that there was no such student on their rolls. But he is still kept associated with HAL. In HAL's latest telephone directory his name is there to show that he is in that project; he sits in HAL, he has his office there. I am also laying a copy on the Table of the House. So, it was not correct to deny that he is not associated with this project. Look at the way people are going about and shopping around in the world trying to buy an engine from here, and

18.00 hrs.

a radar from here and avionics from there and then combine them. This will never go through. Ultimately what will happen? We will get a collaboration. Already we have spent Rs. 2 crores for getting the feasibility report from abroad and we shall end up by buying this like we end up by buying everything else during the last few years. This has to be stopped. There must be self-reliance in our defence. R and D is not only a question of money. It is a question of recruiting the right people and getting rid of the coterie which to-day rules the R and D. You must get rid of the coterie. Otherwise this country is in for trouble. We cannot go on spending crores of rupees in importing know-how. Foreign exchange is precious. Therefore, we must build up our capability through proper R and D.

18.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: PROGRESS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DECADE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we take up the discussion under Rule 193.

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : First of all I thank the House for co-operating with the women in getting this motion in to-day's agenda. I hope that those non-women members who are here present now in the House would support and give us more encouragement in our struggle.