

(vii) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Sikkim Government for construction of a Stadium in the State

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : The attention of Union Government has already been drawn that Sikkim does not have a proper stadium with the required facilities to organise variety of sports activities. Every year, Sikkim hosts tournaments participated by teams from different parts of the country but organisation of these tournaments causes considerable inconvenience to visiting teams and the general public in the absence of required facilities for such tournaments. Availability of proper stadium not only will reduce the inconvenience and hardship of participating teams and the people but will enable the State Government of Sikkim to invite greater participation and encourage local talents also.

The State Government of Sikkim have also made a request to Planning Commission and also submitted detailed projects to concerned Union Ministry for construction of a modern stadium and a gym complex at Gangtok in 1987 but so far no action has been initiated in the matter although more than eight years have passed.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the long pending request of Sikkim and accord necessary approval to the proposal made in this regard so that hidden talent in sports amongst youth of Sikkim could be exhibited in future National and International sports events.

(viii) Need to write off loans of Farmers of Indira Gandhi Canal Project area of Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pucca Water Courses have been constructed in Indira Gandhi Canal Project area but for this, dual policy has been applied. For the first phase of construction of Pucca Water Courses, the farmers have been asked to bear the expenses in the shape of loans, whereas the expenses of the second phase have been borne by the Government itself. This dual policy is not pragmatic and justifiable.

In a short-period, Pucca Water Courses constructed in first phase have got damaged due to water logging, whereas, in the meantime, the loans of the farmers have multiplied five times. I would also like to say that the cost of construction of water courses constructed by neighbour State Governments, has been borne by these State Governments and not by the farmers.

In view of the above facts, I request the Central Government to take necessary action for writing off these loans of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

**GENERAL BUDGET-1995-96
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

Ministry of Defence - Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall commence our business. Shrimati Girija Devi.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the third day we are discussing the budgetary provisions of the Defence Ministry. In the present circumstances, we cannot separate Defence Ministry from Finance and External Affairs Ministries. We can manage the affairs of Defence Ministry with the inter-relation of the other ministries. We have faced many wars. At that time, though it was not a peace period and though our foreign policy was not on sound footing, it became clear who was our friend and who was our foe. Despite our extending the hand of friendship, either through SAARC or by visiting foreign countries, we have not been so successful because of our faulty foreign policy. The Central Government has not formulated any policy regarding our defence preparedness. Our defence perceptions have been belied during the last three years. We relied on Russia but that country has been crippled. We have to go all alone in defence preparedness. We have to make our own defence strategy. All our agreements, whether these concern economic policy, commerce policy or our Finance, have failed our old conventional defence strategy. We have borders with Pakistan, Bangla Desh and China. There is large-scale infiltration from these borders in India. We fought many battles but what benefit we got from these battles? We sent Indian Peace keeping forces in Sri Lanka and our jawans suffered heavy casualties but even then our relations became strained with that country. We should not consider any neighbouring country our friend or foe for ever. Instead, we should be so much strong that no country may dare to cross our borders. We fought for Bangladesh. We faced unprovoked wars in 1962 and in 1965 and we helped our neighbour also. But we should have a policy as to upto what extent we will extend our help to other

countries and such a decision should be taken in consultation with those ministries who directly affect Defence Ministry. This thing has not been done so far.

Foreign dignatories have come here. Our Prime Minister also went to America. Our Defence officers too went abroad. But so far, we have not been appraised as to what is our policy on N.P.T. There was a statement by Shri Pranav Mukherjee in today's newspapers that we are firm and determined on this issue. Of course, we are firm but it is our army that is firm and strong. We have won because of our jawans determination. Government's contribution has not been much in that.

We have not provided sufficient funds for the defence services in the budget estimates. It is said that there is 8 per cent increase in defence budget but compared to this, the inflation rate is 12 per cent. Therefore, this does not reflect increase in the Defence Budget at all. What ever has been increased will not be sufficient even for the dearness allowance. Development of all the three wings of defence services is essential. We have six thousand and two hundred kilometre long coastal border. That is why the Chief of Naval staff once called India a country of islands. Then there are Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshdweep Islands also which have to be protected. Coco island, only 20 kilometre away from Andaman-Nicobar is very near to China. We have to keep a constant vigil on 1500 kolometre long coastal border around that. But the grants given for this purpose are just 13 per cent of the total grant. History tells us that the invaders have always entered our country from these areas and we have proved to be weak on this front.

We have 120 ships at present which have become old. We have not purchased any ship during the last 10 years. The average life span of a ship is stated to be 20 years. We shall have to acquire 8 ships every year in order to replenish the old ones. It is essential for the security of our coastal borders. We have to be more alert, particularly on the borders touching that of Myanmar, China and Pakistan because Myanmar and China are keeping eyes on us through the borders touching coco island. We find that our naval strength in totality is not sufficient. Our Navy has only 7 submarines, which are quite old. Even then, we have not planned to acquire any new submarine for our Naval force. With the present budget allocation, it has not been made clear from where new 'subs' would be acquired. The life span of our aircraft carrier is over. Vikrant is also going to be obsolete after one year. In spite of this, there is no proposal to procure new aircraft carrier in place of Vikrant.

We have wasted seven years in the legal battle on Karwad Project in Karnataka. This profect is still in its initial stage. Whatever amount has been spent on this project may be termed as destructive expenditure. There might have been delay because of Soviet Union at early stage of this project. Now we have to complete

this project on our own. The funds earmarked for Naval purposes are insufficient in order to modernize our Naval force, we should increase this amount.

Our Airforce is also not sufficiently equipped. Our enemies have modern warfares. We have been talking of purchasing an L.C.A. for several years; but that day has not come yet as to when we will acquire L.C.A. The air crafts of our Air Force are outdated. Funds are required for their maintenance. It is said that the maintenance of one Aircraft costs double the amount, which is required to purchase a new one.

We have 39 defence production units. 9 public sector undertakings are manufacturing defence material. In spite of this we send our aircrafts to Singapore for their maintenance and repairs. Air accidents are increasing. The accidents involving Air Force planes have mostly taken place in India. What is the reason. It is because we have no Jet Trainer available in the Air Force. In the absence of an advance Jet Trainer we give training to the pilots on ordinary planes and after that they straight away practice on most sophisticated planes as a result of which large number of pilots have lost their lives. It seems we have no proper training arrangements for our pilots. MIG-21 and MIG-27 aircraft have become obsolete. This can be avoided only by modernising these aricrafts. Off and on we are told that these aircraft will be repaired in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. but it will take at least five year's time to acquire such skill to repair them in the country. We have only 45 such aricrafts. About 10 to 15 years ago Subramanian Committee gave its report that minimum number of such aircraft should be 65. But now the conditions as well as the war techniques have changed a lot. In view of the changed electronic warfare the importance of such aircraft has increased and if we do not increase their number the life of our pilots will be at stake. A feeling of insecurity is being developed in the pilots as they are imparted training on gliders and asked to operate sophisticated aircrafts. In order to overcome all such shortcomings and to strengthen the organisation, we should provide them more funds.

I have all respect for D.R.D.O. but the fact remains that since its inception it has done very little towards developing technologies independently. Anyhow, DRDO is doing praiseworthy job. The country is grateful to DRDO for its commendable work. We can achieve self reliance through DRDO in the modern warfare. We can develop our electronic instrumentation, our engineering. We can increase striking power of our Navy and can develop L.C.A. in the country itself through D.R.D.O. But we are spending only a little more than 5 per cent on its 50 laboratiries and 15 academies. We are not taking advantage of the genius of our scientists of world fame like Shri Abul Kulam who has formulated 10 year plan for the purpose. But merely praising will not do, for this we require more and higher allocation of funds.

Funds, high morale and brains are essential factors for attaining selfreliance in defence preparedness. We have intelligent scientists who are prepared to do every thing for the country. These scientist have developed 'Prithvi' missile. We are importing its fuel from Germany, why we are not able to manufacture it on our own, it will give rise to certain doubts in this regard like it is being said that its engine gets heated in the local climate and it loses its power on the mountains...(Interruptions)

Sir, since the matter of DRDO is of a very important nature we must provide higher allocations to D.R.D.O. even from other sources also. There are public undertakings which have earned profit of 2048.50 crores of rupees for you. Please encourage these undertakings to such an extent so that you may compete America.

Sir, the issue of Bofors is hanging since 1987. First of all, Radio Sweeden provided some hints regarding Bofors in 1987. The next day those were denied in the Lok Sabha as being baseless. It was a deal of 14 thousand crores of rupees. 62 crores of rupees were given as Commission. It may be a meagre amount but a scam remains a scam notwithstanding the amount involved in it. And it becomes our duty to expose all such scams since it involves the defence of the country. In order to rouse confidence among our soldiers, we will have to break our country free from the web of the worldly illusion.

I will invite attention of the House to the incidence of Mangal Pandey, who sacrificed himself on the suspicion that Cartridges with cow tallow at their top were supplied to the army.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform the House that I belong to the same place to which Mangal Pandey belonged.

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI : Sir, we should not avoid taking notice of this problem but by exposing every thing we should make the people as well as army free from the web of worldly illusion then only we can command overwhelming influence over world. Sir, Sweden is prepared to handover the papers, but it wants an assurance from us that these papers will only be utilised for the purpose for which these papers are being provided. But we are able to face the reality. We are not making our policy clear. I want to know whether there are two faces of justice? On the one hand if a hungry person steals two chapatis to subside his hunger. You give him severe punishment and you say you have done justice. But on the other hand you do not even bring those persons to book who have taken kickback of 62 crores of rupees. You do not punsih them but you must bring them to light before the world so that we may believe justice is there in the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, kindly listen to me. There are many hon. Members who want to

participate in the debate. You have already spoken for more than 35 minutes. You must stick to the time. Please conclude.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : I will conclude in five minutes.

[Translation]

Sir, although we have a committee to engineer defence exhibitions but we could not exhibit defence preparedness in defence exhibition because of this Bofors; people say this and the newspapers have also published reports in this regard.

Sir, now I would like to draw your attention toward Ex-servicemen who retire from the army at an early age. Benefits being given to them are insufficient. They can not make both-ends meet properly after early retirement from the army. This aspect should be taken into consideration.

The other issue is about the widows of soldiers and ex-servicemen. For some time they get adequate pension but after some period the amount of their pension is reduced. They can not continue the study of their children and they can not bear the expenses of their families. When I go to villages these widows request us to get them any job. They are in most pathetic condition. I would suggest that these widows should get pension equal to the amount of last pay drawn by the soldier; like the benefits being given in the case of handicapped soldiers.

There are Central schools in cantonment areas. But when soldiers are posted on the borders, they leave their families in their native places where there are no facilities of Central schools. I urge that there should be two Central schools in each district headquarters where children of these army men may get education. Early decision should be made with the help of Human Resource Development Ministry in this regard.

Sir, today is such a situation that a man go in the army only when he does not get any job elsewhere. This has been confirmed by a survey. People only belonging to lower strata of society join army. Our young folk do not opt for army with their own sweet will but circumstances compel them to join army. Therefore, they lack the feeling of patriotism. To overcome this problem N.C.C. was formed. The scheme of N.C.C. is not available in rural areas where youngmen are prepared to sacrifice their likes for the country, but there is no N.C.C. there. Moreover, in absence of higher education they are not able to face the Army Selection Board in order to join army. This deficiency must be removed.

Even today the management of our armed forces is based on British pattern and TA, DA is allowed to the Armyman upto 1450 kilometre of journey once in a year. If a soldier is posted beyond this distance from his residence he is allowed this benefit once in two years. This should be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are short of time. Please conclude.

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI : We should take such petty things into consideration for the security of our Armed forces.

Sir, I express my gratitude to all my army men who sacrificed their lives for the country. But I will not support conditions not conducive for the benefit of the soldier, which do not provide adequate protection and leave them in precarious condition to fight for the country...*(Interruptions)* I am unable to support such demands.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today, the 9th of May, 1995, as you know very well, happens to be the 50th Anniversary of the victory over Fascism. When the forces of Hitler-Germany surrendered in the city of Berlin, in that titanic conflict which raged throughout the world, we should remember the part which was played by the Indian troops. Of course, it is a fact that that army was not the army of an independent country; but that does not diminish, in any way the heroism and courage and the fighting skill which was displayed by large numbers of Indian *jawans* and officers in various theatres of that war. I think, that should be remembered - whether it was North Africa, whether it was the assault on Monte Cassino in Italy where other Allied troops failed or were beaten back time and again until the Indians made a final assault - and these things should not be forgotten. I am fully in agreement with my friend, Shri Jaswant Singh about whatever he has said regarding the need for having a proper war memorial and a war museum for our people, for those who sacrificed their lives after Independence also. I fully support his proposals there.

In this debate the general trend which I noticed on the part of Members is to criticise, legitimately perhaps, the downward trend which is being shown in the Budgetary allocation for Defence. Instead of increasing the allocation, the Government in fact is taking into consideration the inflation which has taken place. There is a downward trend and the Members are repeatedly asking for higher allocations to be made, whether it is for the Army, Navy, Air Force or for our DRDO. This is one way of looking at this problem. Of course, everybody would like that we would be in a position to spend more on the essential requirements of our Defence arrangements.

But here I find, that requires to be cleared up in my opinion, that there is some sort of a contradiction between what hon. Members are stressing and what the Prime Minister, who is also the Defence Minister, speaking on behalf of the Government has been saying. In my opinion, this matter should be cleared up once for all. The other day, on the 22nd of the last month, the hon. Prime Minister addressed a combined meeting of

the Commanders of Army, Navy and Air Force. I have, of course, got only the Press reports to go by. But according to that, if you will allow me to quote a few sentences from what he is reported to have said, the Prime Minister told the top brass of the Armed Forces that the resource constraint was a reality within which they have to learn to work. He said and I quote :

"It was always the Government's intention to make adequate allocations within limited resources to ensure that priority, modernisation and acquisition programmes did not suffer. But while the allocations have been stepped up, the Services needed to keep in mind that the resource constraint was a reality within which they had to learn to work. They need, therefore, to exercise particular care in ensuring that scarce resources were wisely spent and selection of equipment is made with discernment."

The latter part is a caution which was also mentioned by Shri Jaswant Singh in a different way when he said that if there were more rupees we would be happier but with the rupee at our disposal we want that every rupee is properly spent in terms of accountability, cost effectiveness, efficiency and quality. I fully agree with that, but the general outlook which has been enunciated here by the Prime Minister amounts to telling the Commanders that they have to stitch their coat according to the cloth. The Government is not in a position to give them more money. In fact the heading is that he rules out any increase in funding. This is important because this is the final word of the Government and from this also flows the strategy, the concept of national security which we have to keep in mind.

Are we preparing seriously for some sort of armed hostilities with our neighbours or with a neighbour, I do not know. On the same occasion, the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has said that our Defence and strategic perspectives have been consistently aimed at strengthening the forces of reconciliation, peace and stability so that tensions and conflicts are minimised and in the ultimate analysis done away with altogether. In this context we have to continue to build up friendly and cooperative relations with countries around the world. Of course, he has given later on a caution about Pakistan being one exception to this general assessment.

15.00 hrs.

Well, Sir, these are two positions. One is, a general criticism of the Government for failing to provide adequate funding for our defence requirements, and the demand that more and more should be given for the Navy hardware, hardware for the Army, more and more should be given for DRDO, missiles and so on. And, on the other hand, we have the Prime Minister and

Defence Minister's assessments that they cannot give any more and so the forces have to make do with what they can give, and within that framework the forces have to learn to operate.

(Shri Sharad Dighe *in the Chair*)

15.01 hrs.

Of course, I agree to this extent that I do not think that military capability is the only defence that we have got. I have here, an assessment made by the Foreign Minister of Australia, Mr. Gareth Evans, who by the way has said :

"India is the most underrated of the major powers of the Nineties. It has a huge population which is likely to outstrip China by the year 2010. It has a substantial land mass, an increasingly educated population, and a developed manufacturing industrial sector. It already has very significant military capabilities as the fourth largest force in the world in manpower with an increasingly effective Naval force which makes it unquestionably the predominant power in South Asia."

South Asia, he is talking about,

"but there can be no suggestions that India's capabilities have been developed for other than legitimate purposes."

That means, it is for defensive purposes primarily. "The country", Mr. Evans says,

"is self reliant in defence with the developing satellite and missile capability and its nuclear technology. India is certainly capability of defending itself against practically all comers. Its capacity to project power into South East Asia and the Indian Ocean is considerable but that should be understood as a function needed to protect a 7000 km coastline and to guard against possible threat from the North rather than constituting anything that should be perceived as a direct security threat to its neighbours."

Mr. Evans also says :

"For all its importance, military capability is just one among many instruments of an effective national security policy. Security in a regional context is best guaranteed when military capability is backed up by effective diplomacy, and trade and other contacts building up a sort of relationship and network of interdependence that will minimise the likelihood of a conflict breaking out. The most effective regional security policy is a multidimensional policy, one in which all the components of a country's network of

relations in the region work together to help shape a security environment which is favourable to everyone's interests."

I think this is quite a common sense statement with which I, at least, am inclined to agree. One does not measure security purely in terms of our military capability. That is, of course, the most vital part of it but it has to be considered in the context of our whole regional activity in the field of diplomacy, in the field of building up friendly relations with neighbouring countries, in the field of trade and commerce and so on. So, when the Prime Minister says that, at the moment, we are not able to give you more funds, you have to operate within this, then we have to content ourselves, as Mr. Jaswant Singh has said, with ensuring that every pie is being spent properly, that we are getting maximum out of whatever is at our disposal to spend. And that, I think, is the job of the people who look into the Defence Budget. This should not mean that we should buckle down under any sort of external pressure. I am afraid, although it is not being admitted, there is a pressure operating and that pressure is primarily against our missile technology, and our deployment and production of missiles.

We know where that threat and pressure are coming from, although the Prime Minister has said that we will continue with our Missile Development Programme and we are not going to buckle down under anybody's pressure. But it is a fact that Prithvi, according to Mr. Joseph Nye, who is the United States Assistant Defence, speaking to the United States Senate Panel said and I quote :

"Prithvi is in a state of hibernation while Agni, the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile is in a state of suspended animation."

This, with great satisfaction, is what Mr. Joseph Nye had expressed. This is what Mr. Mallikarjun had said and I quote :

"Though the Missile, Prithvi, which he was talking about, had successfully achieved its objectives, and user trials are complete, we have yet to take a decision on serial production."

That means, we have advanced up to a certain stage of testing and the trials have been completed, but, then, there is some sort of a cut off. In the next stage of going into serial production, Mr. Mallikarjun is virtually confirming what Mr. Joseph Nye had told the American Senate *viz.*, "Prithvi is now in a state of hibernation". We do not know how long this "state of hibernation" as far as Prithvi is concerned and "in a state of suspended animation" as far as Agni is concerned, will continue. All these things are known apparently to Mr. Joseph Nye. Such things are not revealed to us because they are supposed to be confidential. But the Americans know about it. They are

talking about it. I think, we have irritated or provoked Dr. Abdul Kalam to some extent - I do not know whether he is here - to say this which had been reported and I quote :

"India's defence preparedness is based on indigenous perceptions of national security. We cannot go by the suggestions of other countries in such matters."

So, something is happening in this field of missile development. I do not know whether the House will be taken into confidence on this matter. Nobody has said that we are abandoning or giving up our missile programme. But the question is of capping it; and the question of pressures from Americans who are saying that you have gone so far and no further now. Otherwise where from all these expressions *viz.*, hibernation and suspended animation, came? So, we are definitely worried about this and not about whether we are proceeding slowly or that we have abandoned something or the other. But we are worried about the fact that there is some pressure which everybody knows. There should be no buckling down at all under such foreign pressure. I fully support the suggestion made by more than one hon. Member here. I still appeal to the Prime Minister - today being the 9th May, still there is three days' time - that this House should adopt a Resolution, which will, I am sure, be a unanimous Resolution. Nobody is going to strike a jarring note in it at all. We should adopt a unanimous Resolution, that can be moved from the Chair, stating in unequivocal terms what is already known to be India's national position on the question of NPT. This NPT thing is going on now. We are still being pressurised, to fall in line with those who wanted this to be continued; extended indefinitely, which is not our stand. We have got a very clear cut stand on the NPT. I think our Government's position will be further strengthened, if it is armed with a Resolution passed by this House. I do not understand what harm can be done by adopting such a Resolution which would be the voice of Parliament, speaking clearly and unambiguously, about the question of NPT.

Apart from this, I would like to raise one more point. The hon. lady Member here has said something about this. There are reports that Bofors is pleading for lifting the embargo which was imposed on it by us that no further dealing with Bofors will be permitted. Lengthy reports have appeared about the press conference which was held here in Delhi by the Vice-President of Bofors, Mr. Soren Jindal in which he was pleading for the lifting of the embargo and he was referring to the difficulties being faced by the Indian Army in the wake of the embargo. Mr. Jindal maintained that his firm was in a position to upgrade several other items that had been supplied earlier. He is trying to tempt us. If you lift the embargo, we can help you to upgrade several items. This upgradation for purposes of modernisation is a policy which the Defence establishment has gone in for now. I think it is a wise policy if you are really to function

within the resource constraints. You cannot go on purchasing and acquiring new materials from outside. It is too expensive to do so. Much more economical and practical way of doing things, wherever it is possible, is to upgrade, modernise and overhaul the hardware which we already have got and remembering that all these hardware, most of it in the old days came from one source, the Soviet Union. In between it was dislocated. My friend Mr. Amal Datta when referring to the upgradation programme for the Tanks, T-15 and T-52, said that this should have been done much earlier. How could it have been done much earlier? Since it was being done with Russian collaboration, there is no other way to get it. These Tanks were originally supplied to us from that country. Now, they have offered to upgrade these Tanks and we have accepted that offer. But it could not have been done earlier for the simple reason that they were not in a position to come and help us to do this because of the dislocation of their own economy. Now, if that is being taken up for lack of any other resource, that is a good thing. But we should not be tempted to seek the offer which is being made by the Vice-President of the Borors. We already know once now they have treated us, how they have dealt with us and the elements of criminality involved in the Bofors deal. By the way Mr. Jindal says that Bofors have no information about the names of the people who gave or received kickbacks. The Swedish Government had given that information to its Indian counterpart, meaning the Indian Government. It is for the latter to analyse that and ask for more if necessary. We have been kept in the dark about this all along. We do not know what is going on. So, he said, newspaper reports make it clear that the Army was suffering from inadequate spares. While he was confident that India would make most of the components domestically, it would be quicker and cheaper to utilise this right to get technical support from Bofors. You have said paid for this. Somehow that does not make. So, I would like to sound a note of warning that we should not be tempted by the people who look after Bofors by offering some assistance by way of overhauling or upgrading and all that to lift the embargo on Bofors. Till the old matter which is still pending regarding the kickbacks, regarding the secret accounts in the Swiss banks and all that is cleared up, there is no question of lifting of embargo on the Bofors.

Sir, I support the hon. Members' demand for setting up a National Security Council. In fact a couple of years ago, it was virtually decided that there should be a National Security Council.

But nothing has come out of it. The Prime Minister has said the other day - I think, yesterday - that it was a deliberate decision of the Government to entrust the Defence portfolio to the Prime Minister because they feel that it is necessary for the Prime Minister himself to be in charge of this very important sphere of Government activity. Well, I have no objection to that provided, in the absence of another Cabinet Minister

for Defence, the Prime Minister has got the time and can give sufficient attention to all these complicated Defence matters. I have no objection at all to that. But there is no reason why, in order to assist him or in order to advise him, why there should not be a National Security Council. Sir, in formulation defence policy and defence strategy, as far as I know, what we have been told is that the Service Chiefs - the Chiefs of Staff of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force - hardly come into the picture at present. The planning for the defence, the policy that is worked out, the strategy and all that, are not done by any body in which the Army Chief or the Naval or the Air Force Chief is personally present. This is done by other people. Other people may be quite qualified and quite competent people. But I find it very strange that the Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and not directly associated with the whole question of defence planning and policy. I believe, if a National Security Council is set up, they would find a place in it definitely along with other people and, therefore, such a Council, whose functions, whose terms of reference, whose powers, all these can be defined. But certainly it would be a very valuable body for assisting, guiding and advising the Prime Minister in his handling of defence matters.

Then, Sir, I would say that in the Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, just now, we have devoted a paragraph or so to the question of the search which is going on for a suitable Advanced Jet Trainer for our Air Force. We have been informed reliably that in the absence of an Advanced Jet Trainer, a large number of accidents have taken place to our aircraft and quite a large number of our pilots have lost their lives in crashes and so on. And for the purpose of training, we are having to divert regular aircraft from our Air Force squadrons, which is not what is supposed to be done. This is a specialised Advanced Trainer Aircraft, which is required. Now, Sir, these things cost money. I am talking in terms of what the Prime Minister has said already about husbanding the resources carefully. Each one of these aircraft, I am told, may cost something up to Rs. 50 crore. And at present, the Ministry people have shortlisted two types of aircraft, one British and one French. The French one, as far as I know, is already out of production. This is not being flown or used by any Air Force. The British one is left, namely the Hawk. And apparently the Air Force wants 66 such aircraft costing Rs. 50 crore each. So, all that I am saying is that in view of the resource crunch - we have made a suggestion here also in our Report - in the meantime developments have taken place and ten years have already passed when we are looking for this AJT ten years have already passed - and we can profitably perhaps look for some aircraft, new aircraft, which have been developed in the meantime. And we have suggested that there is a Report on the Russian Advanced Jet Aircraft, Trainer Aircraft, whose price is half the price of this, whose price is 50 per cent of the price of the British aircraft.

We were told that it was still at a very initial stage. It is still not being tested, not being test-flown and so on. But those which are ready already, even after 10 years of negotiation, you see, we are not any nearer to acquiring those. So in view of the totality of the situation, we have suggested that they should also examine the possibility of acquiring this Russian jet trainer aircraft which will cost us half of what the other one will cost. It is a suggestion for action.

Then, I would like to speak just one word about the ordnance factories. We all know they have done very good work. We are quite proud of the performance of the ordnance factories. But what is worrying me is that this is one area in which, I hope, that for the first time a thin end of the wedge is not being introduced in the shape of declaring any ordnance factory sick, like we have so many other Public Sector Undertakings being declared sick and being sent to the BIFR for final disposal. This is not a thing which should intervene in our defence production area. There is one ordnance factory in Kanpur, the TAFCO, which was set up in order to produce boots and special type of footwear for the Armed Forces. Now I am told that this TAFCO company is supposed to be sick and it is being sent to the BIFR for examination and final disposal, and knowing the BIFR as we do, it is very likely to declare that it should be liquidated or wound up. Now my information goes that this TAFCO company has deliberately been made sick because the recommendations which were there previously, even of a Committee of Secretaries that a certain minimum percentage of production of boots and footwear from this company had to be earmarked for the Armed Forces were not implemented. They must be sold to the Armed Forces. But now the purchases which are being made from the open market, from private manufacturers are steadily being stepped up, though the quality is not obviously good. They are the famous makers of Flex shoes which everybody has heard of. Now we require various types of footwear including for the people who are serving at high altitudes and others serving in the deserts and so on. So by saying that the orders are not adequate or orders have gone down, the company should not be declared sick. I want the Prime Minister to think over one thing which is not always generally known that 80 to 90 per cent of the workers employed in TAFCO are either Scheduled Caste people or Muslims. It is a factory which deals with raw leather, having workers who have to handle raw leather and because of this, the overwhelming majority of workers belongs either to Scheduled Caste or Muslim community. If this factory is closed and these people are thrown out of their jobs, it will invariably have some political fall out which I think, he should be certainly bothered about also. So this is an additional argument by which I am opposing this whole business of declaring ordnance factories as sick.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say a word about these peace keeping operations. The United Nations

sponsored peace keeping operations have almost, always had an Indian contingent because our Indian troops are considered to be among the high quality armies which are available in the world. From the point of view of professional conduct and from the point of view of discipline, they are second to none. We should remember that and also their very humanitarian behaviour towards the local population in the countries where they have been sent. Just now, only a few days ago, yet another contingent has been sent to Angola. Earlier they had been in Mozambique, Somalia and in other countries.

The only aberration or exception to this — of course, the United Nations has to have its own parameters which these peace keeping forces have to operate, those are laid down, they have to be adhered to and not deviated from — I would say, was in the case of what was really a misnomer, the IPKF which was sent to Sri Lanka. That was not a United Nations project, that was something which was agreed bilaterally between the Indian Government and the Sri Lankan Government in the days of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. That IPKF which spent a long time in Sri Lanka, suffered heavy casualties, did not win any kind of support or respect from the local population and rather created an atmosphere of hostility, further hostility, among those whom they were meant to subdue, and whom they failed to subdue militarily also, that IPKF was a disaster in my opinion, and such type of adventures should not be indulged in and our troops and our Jawans should not be exposed to the kind of risk and the kind of disaster to which they were, at that time.

Finally, I would like to say that on the whole I do not share the view that we are terribly ill prepared, we have no strength, our strength is going down and people are talking generally about Pakistan, of course. I think the remarks made about China are really out of place, because with China our relations as a country have vastly improved and both of us are very much involved in the problems of development. The Prime Minister has noted in that speech to the Commanders that the border areas with China had been peaceful since the Agreement of 1993 and the expert groups were working for a fair reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the complex boundary question. Some withdrawal of troops on both sides has also taken place from the line of control. There is nothing on evidence to show that China — the New China — is harbouring any kind of aggressive designs against India. They may have a very big Army and they may be building up their Armed Forces as we would like to do here also. It does not mean that they are having aggressive designs.

With Pakistan the question is different. That has been admitted. But we should not have a kind of an inferiority complex. I think what has been stated here and the opinion of many other foreign experts and statesmen is that India is a pretty strong country and in South Asia, at least is the strongest military power of

all. That does not mean that we have done enough. I do not say that. But then we have to advance within our limits, within our resources, use our indigenous capacity much more than we have done so far. There is always this tendency to look abroad, to buy something from abroad. But our indigenous capacity can be much more fully utilised than it has been so far. I think that our scientists and our DRDO people who deserve a word of congratulation. If any increase at all in budgetary allocations can be afforded it should be allotted to them, to the scientific research and DRDO people who can really do something which will stand us in good stead, 10 or 15 years from now, not just now, only one or two years.

So, from all these points of view I think that we should not have an inferiority complex. At the same time, we should build up our country's resources and we should do everything possible to strengthen the morale of our people. The morale of our people is very important when it comes to any kind of conflict or hostility. We have seen that repeatedly in the past wars which had taken place. So, having more confidence on our own people, on our Armed Forces and looking after our men better — I have not gone the whole question of pensions and all that, which I was tempted to do - but I think our people still had a raw deal, I mean, the Ex-Servicemen who were supposed to get a substantial revision of their pensions — at least those who had retired after 1986.

They were disappointed and they have not got that. We are getting so many letters every day about the anomalies, contradictions and all sorts of discrepancies, discriminations between different ranks who have now retired and who have got hardly a miserable pittance to live on and to keep their families alive. This must be looked into more carefully. That is my last request.

Thank you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I must admit that when I participate in this Debate I do so with no special knowledge of Defence matters but as one who is interested like many many others in this subject of vital national importance.

Unlike Shri Jaswant Singh, I can do no arithmetical or analytical examination of the Defence expenditure or strategy. But I must with all humility say that I find it extremely difficult to agree with his view that India has no Defence Policy or that for the last eight years we have imparted no serious training to our men in the uniform. Equally difficult I find to accept his view about purity of the spirit of the Armed Forces being sullied by the corrosive consequences of the highly politicised civil service. I must say that in his immaculate style he used very high sounding words. But with all respect I would say, use of an expression like this would really do no good to the Armed Forces.

Defence Policy by its very nature cannot be a policy like that on Health, Agriculture, Water Management, Forests etc. This is a Policy which cannot and, I think, need not be specifically enunciated in any public document.

We have come a long way since the year 1962 when our lofty ideals of peaceful co-existence received a severe battering. Since then we have faced and won two wars thrust upon us in 1965 and 1971. Through the decisive victory in 1971, we could give a clear message that the peace loving people of India cannot be vanquished through the use of arms. But, at the same time, I must admit that it sent home message to us that fighting as we may be against the scourge of disease, illiteracy, malnutrition, over population etc., top on the national agenda must be Defence.

I would take this opportunity to say that since then Defence has continued to be the sedor on which the greatest part of the expenditure of Central Government has gone over the years. During the last many years, it has been 13 per cent. We have a resource crunch. Despite that fact, an allocation of 13 per cent is no small amount. I would wish that there should be no dearth of resources, no dearth of equipment or anything whatever is required by the Armed Forces. But as Shri Indrajit Gupta referred to the statement of the Prime Minister, we have our difficulties.

And given those premises, we have got to see how best we make use of our resources. I would not differ with Shri Jaswant Singh Ji on that account that each paisa spent has to be accounted for, that our expenditure on Defence has to be cost-effective. But I often find here - maybe for the sake of criticising the Government - that if there is greater expenditure on something, we question that, and if we find that the expenditure is not enough, we are still not satisfied. I would say that today our level of defence preparedness is such that we need not really worry about anything. It is because of our military capability. I would taking it as one of the determinants referred to by Shri Indrajit Gupta say that our military capability, our defence preparedness, besides the new strength acquired by the Indian economy over the last four years, has made the people to realise the world over about India's importance in the international arena.

We stand firm in our opposition to a discriminatory treaty like NPT. There need not be any doubt about what has been the unambiguous and well-articulated stand of India on this subject. I would not oppose the suggestion of any resolution being moved by this House. But yesterday, hearing Shri Jaswant Singh Ji, I was wondering whether he was really advocating nuclear proliferation. If I am not mistaken - of course, he was supporting India's stand - he wanted us to go further to say that we should make nuclear weapons but declare that we will not be the first to use them. This is what precisely every nuclear power has been saying, and

that struggle goes on. That is the difference that India would like to convey about its policy. We have repeatedly said that we cannot be a signatory to a treaty like NPT, but, at the same time, options would always remain open to us. I think that should be enough for us on the subject and there is no occasion whatsoever for us to express any doubt thereon. Our approach is clear and unambiguous and I would, with all the emphasis at my command, like to say that no outside power - there was a doubt expressed about this also - can determine India's policy, India's response to any development anywhere.

The other day, the Prime Minister assured the House that we are continuing with the 'Prithvi' missile programme as per schedule - I would like to underline the words 'as per the schedule' - And we have moved beyond the stage of user-trial of the short range surface-to-surface missile. This was commented upon yesterday and today. This achievement of ours was sought to be underplayed yesterday saying that a payload of one tonne would lead us nowhere. Again I would hasten to add that I am not an expert on the subject but I think it is an occasion for us to feel proud of having shown our capability of producing missiles of that nature. And today when an objection was raised to our not undertaking serial production of the missiles and this was sought to be buttressed by some comment in the United States to say that our programme was under hibernation, I would find it extremely difficult to agree with that also. It is we who have to see as to what is needed by us and when. If others comment on that, it should give in flutter and we should not be unduly worried about that.

All that is important for us to ensure is that we maintain our military capability, that our state of defence preparedness is enough to hold us in good stead at the time of need.

Sir, to face any challenge from our potential adversaries we, as you know, undertake a regular exercise in modernisation of our forces. I think that is not a point on which there is any difference of opinion. As far as our D.R.D.O. is concerned, they have done a commendable job despite the fact that perhaps the resources are not available in that ample measure as we would want.

With this I would also join hon. Members of this House and the grateful citizens outside to express our sense of gratitude for those valiant soldiers of ours who have maintained strict vigilance on our borders and have safeguarded the territorial integrity of our country and contributed immensely in generating a new feeling of optimism in the country. They have won admiration in their contributions to the United Nations peace-keeping efforts.

Though Shri Indrajit Gupta referred only to the I.P.K.F. about an aberration as he termed it, I was surprised to find some of the Cut Motions about which

notices have been given by some hon. Members from the other side even criticising our contribution or participation in those peace-keeping endeavours of the United Nations. I do not know whether really our friends on the other side entertaining those ideas want India to be isolated in the world community today.

India, as we know, has played a very major role in the United Nations peace-keeping endeavours, of course, reserving the judgement to decide about our participation from case to case on the merits thereof. And we should really be proud of the fact that keeping in tune with the international obligations we have participated in such endeavours.

Defence is a subject certain aspects of which must always be kept beyond the pale of controversy. And I would respectfully say that the expressions that we make on different aspects thereof should not be blurred by narrow political considerations at any point of time.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh - a distinguished ex-soldier and a very senior Member of this House - referred to the 'deleterious' effect that divergent concepts of nationalism and consequently patriotism could have on National Defence and on our capacity to meet national challenges'. I welcome this statement of his. Taking him to be a very senior representative of the Bhartiya Janata Party, I welcome this change on the part of the Bhartiya Janata Party also. So far stridently aggressive postures and dubious claims to *Hindutwa* by the Sangh Pariwar have had a telling impact on our polity and as he rightly said, consequently on the morale of our forces our capacity to meet our national challenges.

Much of the violence that has racked different parts of the country in the past and exerted pressures even on our Armed Forces could have been avoided if we had all believed that India belongs to all Indians irrespective of their religious faiths or forms of worship practised by them. Sir, encouraged by Shri Jaswant Singhji's observations, I only hope that his co-travellers do not let him down on that score.

Sir, perhaps, in an effort to criticise the Government, there is another aspect which we have taken upon ourselves to comment upon without really weighing the consequences thereon, that is, about the equipment with the Armed Forces and in this context, I refer to Bofors. Girija Deviji referred to the ghost of Bofors. I really fail to understand, Sir, why that ghost still continues to haunt our friends on the other side. There was a time when a concerted effort was made to mislead our jawans and to mislead the countrymen at large that the Bofors gun was not the best thing available to us. I am happy that that has not been said today. But when we rake up those matters knowing very well that the Government of India over the years, whether it was our Government of a non-Congress Government, has tried its best to find out what happened in that matter and as to who were the persons who received the kickbacks in that case, if we continue raking up that matter again

and again, I, with all humility, must say, Sir, that we are perhaps still creating a lurking doubt in the minds of the people about what goes on in the Armed Forces and that is what precisely we have to stop. Shri Indrajit Gupta, while referring the need to inject Advanced Jet Trainers, also referred to the cost of such aircraft and therefore, ventured to suggest an aircraft which could be available to us at half the price. That is exactly what happened there also in the case of Bofors. It was not disputed by anybody; admittedly that was the cheapest gun system available to us at that time and it was obtained after a very hard bargaining. Sir, sometimes you have to leave certain decisions to the people at the helm of affairs and if we repeatedly keep talking about those things, I would, for the sake of laying emphasis, only repeat that it does no good to us.

Sir, not really wanting to take more time on this. I must say that what really prompted me to participate in this debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence was a report which has been referred to earlier by some of the hon. Members about the stuff that is now available for recruitment in the Armed Forces. Sir, I remember, I was at school in 1962 when a large number of students, bright and sturdy, opted for the Armed Forces and that was their first option. Today, we find that 80 per cent of the candidates going to the Service Selection Boards had earlier tried and tried unsuccessfully for jobs elsewhere. Today's socio-economic scenario and the role that money plays in life make a young man prefer even a Class II job to a career in the Armed Forces. Defence Services no longer hold the promise of glamour or adventure.

Fighting and dying for the country leaving the surviving children and young widows to the mercy of the hostile materialistic world, also no longer motivates young men to join the Forces.

It is the money in the pocket that determines one's status today, that determines the course of preference and obviously it is the banking, it is the hotel management, it is the big corporations, it is even the public sector and the civil services that relegate Armed Forces to a low place of preference by the youth.

What do Defence Services offer today? Unsettled life, difficult living conditions, risk of war and early retirement with slender prospects of rehabilitation elsewhere. With 20 years service in the Police or in the civil services, the incumbent occupies high position and here in the Armed Forces he stagnates as Lieutenant Colonel to retire thereafter.

Something has got to be done about it. With sophisticated weaponry that has to be inducted to maintain our defence preparedness, the cost referred to by Shri Indrajit Gupta was as much Rs. 50 crores per aircraft. We just cannot afford to recruit those officers who are forced to go to the Air Force, to the Army and to the Navy, only because of high level of unemployment. We, in such circumstances, cannot even do with the

second best. It is the sick of the youth, as one of the distinguished Army Generals has referred to, that we need to serve the Armed Forces.

For this, we must make sufficient improvements in their service conditions. Salary, housing, lateral entry into Services like para-military forces to Rashtriya Rifles, Border Security Forces etc., adequate posts with retirement benefits and enhancement of pensions to war widows, are some of the aspects that need to be attended to.

The soldier returns home with small pension, at an age when sometimes his children are still at school and having treated them already as a class by themselves as far as their age of retirement is concerned, we grudge treating them as a class by themselves when they raise the question of one rank one pension.

I would humbly join other hon. Members to say that we must treat them as a class separate from others, grant them one time pension and this should have no snowballing effect on other Services. We must all understand the gratitude that we owe to the Defence Forces. We must understand the genuineness of this demand and we must also appreciate that the measure adopted by us some time back regarding one time increase in the pension is really no substitute for the demand.

An ex-soldier's grouse is that he is treated unfairly by others who frame the rules or the law governing his career, affects the morale of those in the active service and if this is what Shri Jaswant Singh really meant when he talked of corrosive influence, I would agree with him. This does affect the morale of the people in service, of those, who are engaged in preserving the freedom and security of the nation, its unity and integrity.

I want to emphasise that aspect.

To conclude, I would urge the Government that we must consider all these issues for the ultimate good of the nation. A reference was made today to the defeat of Fascism fifty years back. I would conclude by saying that those war veterans who fought for us fifty years back are getting a paltry amount of pension today, that is, Rs. 300/- per year. This is at a time when the Government otherwise, as a measure of welfare for the general public is giving a monthly pension of Rs. 100 to the aged and to the widows. Why should we not raise the pension of war veterans to at least Rs. 200/- per month? These are some of the suggestions that I would like to put before the hon. Minister for the consideration of the Government.

With these words, I would support the Demands.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing today a very important subject. At the very outset I would like to make it clear that the history of Indian Soldiers is a story of valour

itself. We have no doubt that the country is well protected in their hands. But we shall have to equip our army with modern and sophisticated arms, keeping in view the evil eyes and preparedness of our neighbouring countries. We have to keep the morale of our army high. We have to pay rich tribute to our defence forces and acknowledge them as highly competent and dedicated best combat force so that our young generation is attracted towards defence services. Last time while speaking on the demands for grants on the Ministry of Defence and I repeat the same today that there was a time when defence forces personnel were held in high esteem and they were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the country. They used to induct their children in the army. But now they hesitate. People do not want to join defence forces. They like other sectors. We have to think over this aspect seriously. My leader has spoken on this aspect in details. We have to do something so that people are attracted towards, Army, Navy or Airforce; they get their due respect after their retirement from defence service.

Sir, keeping in view our relations with our neighbour countries, such as Pakistan, China, direct involvement of Pakistan in Kashmir, its infiltration in Kashmir and the conditions regarding North-East we have to equip our forces with the most modern and sophisticated electronic warheads equipments or armaments. We must obtain upto date information about the kind of armament, with which their armed forces are equipped.

[English]

We will have to keep parity with those with whom we can have confrontation only.

[Translation]

We have 2-3 options or conditions. Full scale war with Pakistan, support of China to Pakistan through Tibet and infiltration or insurgency of Pakistan in Kashmir and North-East. We have to face all such things and make our forces capable to rebut China.

16.00 hrs.

Third, to deal sternly with Pakistan which is creating problem by sending its trained infiltrators in Kashmir. Pakistan is giving training to these ultras and sending them in India. We are to keep up our relations with.

Fourth, our other neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and Maldives. We have been sending our soldiers as Peace Keeping Force for their help. We have to see our position in this context.

Pakistan has acquired most sophisticated modern arms. They have surface to surface missiles H-1, H-2 and M-11 missiles which can carry nuclear war heads also. All these have been acquired from China. I would like to give my complements to Dr. Kalam, who is sitting here, for the commendable work he has done for the country. As Shri Jaswant Singh ji was saying.

[English]

The product has preceded the concept and that is true.

[Translation]

On the other hand we have come under pressure of foreign powers and are not in a position to deploy 'Prithvi' which has been put in a coldbag. In our country such informations have been kept secret from us whether we are member of Standing Committee on Ministry of Defence. Those are not supplied to us as these have been termed as sensitive and classified in nature but these secret informations have been published in foreign print media. When such modern arms have been deployed on our borders then why should we not deploy our own weapons which we have developed in our country. Decision must be taken about Prithvi. We have to equip our defence forces with such weaponry. Last defence allocation was 25500 crore rupees. I am not satisfied with this allocation because of the increase in the rate of inflation because of the increase in the rate of inflation which is now 11 per cent whereas the increase in budget allocation is only 8.3 per cent. 70 per cent of the arms required to be replenished are from U.S.S.R. But due to disintegration of USSR the prices have inflated there manifold. Now we shall have to make them cash payment. My contention is that budget allocation for Defence Ministry is depleted. We are not spending adequate amount on D.R.D.O. in relation to its commendable work. We are proud of our scientists. They are scientists of world fame. Whatever they have done within their limited resources is really praiseworthy. I demand for increase in the allocation for D.R.D.O.

[English]

It should go up to ten per cent of the Defence Budget.

[Translation]

which is 5.5 per cent at present.

[English]

I will not go into the figures because I thought that the time allocated to me is limited. I will try to be very brief on one or two subjects.

[Translation]

We have to increase allocation for DRDO because our priorities are pinned on this organisation. As per our estimate we cannot go beyond 60 per cent. Keeping in view the internal and foreign crisis of the country. Defence outlay must have to be increased. It is also necessary for acquiring modern weapons and re-equipment of the Defence forces and also to boost the morale of jawans. We have to provide maximum possible facilities to the forces. Our neighbours whether it in China or Pakistan, they have evil eyes on us and with this intention they acquire every sophisticated weapon

from anywhere they can. History is witness to the fact that inspite of our extending the hands of friendship their intentions have always been malicious towards us. Inderjit Singh ji were saying that we have no danger from China. We had no danger from China even in 1962 when Chau-En-Lai came here and said loudly Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai. But we were caught unawares when they attacked us. The deceived us and invaded us. Our Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru could not bear that shock. Therefore we must be careful and utmost alert and prepared to face or counter their assault. There must be automatic 15 per cent increase in Defence Budget allocations every year because the price inflation equalises the increase.

55 thousand defence personal retire every. The burden of their pension is also on Defence allocation. Our armed forces must be young and sturdy. Major Sawant is also of this view. We should retire a army personnel when he attains the age 35 or 40 years. These retired jawan may be reemployed in para military forces. In this way these forces will get already trained personnel inducted into it and the burden of the pension will be decreased. I do not find any difficulty in this provision.

Coming to N.P.T., as Shri Jaswant Singh ji has said, we should pass a resolution, adopt a firm policy in this regard as we have unanimously passed a resolution on Kashmir. We should be crystal are clear in this regard and country must know that we independent and not under any pressure from any corner of the world. This message should go loud and clear from India. Government should consider this in this House and send this message by tomorrow.

We have two or three projects pending with the Government. One project is about manufacture of Advanced Light Helicopters. I had an opportunity to go to H.A.L. in Bangalore. There I was informed about the prototype of this Helicopter having been manufactured. Test Trial had also been undertaken. We should go in for regular production of it. It has been displayed in Paris in the Paris Air Show and probably next month again we are going to have a air show.

Much in detail has been said about Advanced Jet Trainer. We have taken decision about two options, one British Hawk and the other is French Alfa Jet. So far as Alfa Jet is concerned we are not sure whether we would be able to acquire it because its cost is 50 crore which is very high. A Russian Trainer may be taken into consideration because we would require 66 Trainer Jets. I urge to take decision in this regard as early as possible. Our pilots shall have to acquire this Advanced Jet Trainer. LCA project is also pending decision for a long time. We hope we will be able to provide this Trainer to our pilots by 2003 AD. But there is great difference between its present cost and cost in 2003 AD. So there should be a time bound programme. We have not been able to acquire this because of resource crunch. But this should be accorded priority.

We have been able to complete the manufacture MBT 'Arjun'. Test Trials are going on. I have also seen it. It is an indigenous up-lay component. Its indigenisation percentage should be increased and this is the job DRDO, but adequate funds should be provided to DRDO.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been calling army to assist civil administration to maintain Law and Order in the event of any internal riots or any other such emergency. But it was decided some years back not to call army in this manner. So Rashtriya Rifles' was raised. But all its expenses are borne by Ministry of Defence. Ministry of Home Affairs should bear the expenses of Rashtriya Rifles. Its funds should be separate from that of Ministry of Defence. Similarly the budget allocation for DRDO should be separate from that of Ministry of Defence. I have been in army I have fought battle. I know how much respect public give to Jawans. When Jawans sacrifice their lives in battle, people make them hero, pay him rich tributes but they forget their widows their children, nobody cares for them. So I oppose use of army in assisting civil administration in the event of riots. Army men is given instruction that his cartridge should kill army but in civil riots he is ordered to fire but not to kill or injure any person. Such is the plight of army men. Army should not be used in civil riots. For that purpose other forces like BSF, CRPF, R.R. are there. Army may be deployed during natural calamities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cantonment areas were developed by the British. A civilian could not enter the cantonment area easily. But now the position is that they are within the civilian population. Cantonment territory is such that civilians or Government officers living there were exempted from payment of any tax. This is the decision of the Central Government. Two or three day back I was in Kanpur. There are several defence establishments in Kanpur. These defence establishments have to pay 4 crore rupees to cantonment. Civilians have encroached upon the cantonment land. So I would urge the Government to reacquire this encroached land and handover the same to Development Authorities so that sources of income of Cantonment administration may increase and Cantonment facilities may be provided to the civilian population also. Moreover any building in cantonment area would not go beyond a certain height because it would be dangerous for security reasons. A building was being constructed in Kanpur it was very high building. If a person see around with binoculars from that building he could see Chakeri Airforce Station and aerodrome and the activities there. It is a security risk. But the cantonment authorities expressed helplessness. A very high Minaret is being built in the name of religion. That is also a security risk. We all should oppose this.

An army man retires at the age 35 or 40 years from the army. His children are not adult at that time. He is honest and when he returns and enters civilian life he

is faced with corruption every where. He does not get his pension unless he gives money to the concerned officials. This is my information. We should do something for their rehabilitation. But they are not getting any facility. When he is in army he gets a licence for his personal arm from the authorities at his place of posting. But after retirement when he goes to his native town which very far off from place of his posting he is required to present his arm for verification in the city where he was posted. This process takes five to six months time. After retirement his tenent does not vacate his house which he requires now. He has to go to the court for relief. He is not getting medical facility. His children should be given admission in engineering, medical and other professional courses in colleges. Although some seats are reserved for wards of Exservicemen but those should be increased.

There is need to keep the morale of our defence forces high. Their fighting ability should compete with that of neighbouring countries. The present Budget provisions are not quite enough. These should be increased. Mr. Chairman, I do not support these demands for grants.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. R.G. WILLIAMS (Nominated Anglo-Indian) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Defence, 1995-96. At the very outset, I would like to pay rich and well-merited tribute to our defence forces who are acknowledged throughout the world as highly competent and dedicated and amongst the best professional fighting forces within the limitations of the present equipment. Their exemplary performance abroad on various peace keeping missions of the United Nations has further enhanced their image and upheld the honour and prestige of the nation. Our defence forces have also rendered invaluable assistance in the time of national calamities and in maintaining law and order during periods of political unrest.

I would like to welcome the induction of lady officers into our defence services and compliment them on their competence and dedication. I would like to dwell almost exclusively on the subject of defence equipment, which, in this modern world of fast advancing technology, forms the backbone and teeth of any fighting forces. As time progresses, the defence services are becoming more and more equipment-oriented. As reported, the security scenario in our region has not shown any significant improvement; and acquisition of latest sophisticated weaponry, arms technology and modernisation of armed forces by our potential adversaries have raised long-term security concern for India.

As to whether the budgetary estimate of the defence services for the year 1995-96 would be sufficient to enable the Government to take adequate measures that are necessary to ensure our territorial integrity in

response to this menacing security scenario in our neighbourhood calls for a detailed and a close examination. An amount of Rs. 25,500 crore has been provided for the defence services in the Budget Estimates for the year 1995-96.

While allowing for an inflation rate of 11 per cent over the previous year, this does not, in fact, reflect an increase in the Defence Budget at all. I wish to point out that equipments currently in the hands of our Defence Services are now 20 to 25 years old and although not completely out of date certainly need early replacement in a phased and deliberate manner over the remaining few years of this century.

16.26 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee in the Chair.)

Based on these limitations, the services had prioritised a number of areas for modernisation, upgradation and re-equipment of their equipments during the Eighth Plan which spans the period 1992-97. Some of the major prioritised items are as follows. For the Army, they are acquisition of battle field surveillance tactical control radar, remotely piloted vehicles, self-propelled artillery, induction of attack helicopters and modernisation of T-72 and T-55 tanks. For the Air Force, they are procurement of Advanced Jet Trainer, acquisition of multirole combat aircraft with deep strike capabilities and a number of systems of force multiplier. For the Navy, they are replacement of ageing aircraft carrier, replacement of ageing submarines and acquisition of six additional frigates.

In the implementation of this formidable Defence Plan, it is very essential that our support services are geared up fully to meet the challenges. I refer particularly to our DRDO and Defence Production Organisation. The DRDO is doing an excellent job especially in the fields of missiles, aircraft development and electronic warfare equipments which are revolutionising modern warfare. I wish to caution that the likely revival of chemical and biological weapons once again rears its ugly head especially in the hands of terrorist prone organisations and nations. Heavy concentration of population which are unprotected are sitting ducks for this type of mayhem or mass killing by a comparatively small number of militants. There is no doubt that these proxy wars are psychologically demoralising and devastating and that determined elements are capable of penetrating the most sophisticated security arrangements.

Due to resource crunch and budgetary insufficiency, it has not been possible to accommodate all the schemes projected by the Services. However, effort has been made to ensure that defence preparedness does not suffer. A further pruning of the modernisation schemes programme, adopting various economy measures to restrict expenditure, and steps to initiate internal resources generation should help very considerably the services to manage.

The minimum inescapable requirements of the Services have, therefore, been worked out. The Ministry of Finance, it is hoped, will provide sufficient budgetary support during the current Eighth Plan Period. Notwithstanding the resource constraint, efforts have been made to ensure that urgent maintenance and modernisation priorities will not suffer. Out of Rs. 6,945 crore provided in Budget Estimates for 1995-96 for modernisation of the three Services, approximately Rs. 2,000 crore are for new acquisitions. This amount reflects the cash outflow in 1995-96 on modernisation schemes and not the total value of the schemes implemented. The amount provided, it is hoped, will be sufficient to look after the combat worthiness of our Forces.

In the Budget Estimates of 1995-96, only 60 per cent of the amount projected by the three Services for modernisation has been provided. I have to point out that the modernisation, upgradation and reequipment projects are heavily capital intensive and are still in an infancy stage even in the fourth year of the Eighth Plan period, 1992-1997. I have doubts whether any of these prioritised schemes would be completed during the current plan period. I wish to stress that failure to acquire new equipment each successive year will only result in an accumulation or backlog which can become prohibitive and unaffordable, necessitating panic buying or taking on lease equipment from abroad as a last resort. It must also be borne in mind that delays in procurement result in a higher cost of acquisition from abroad due to sharp depreciation of the rupee. Similarly, in respect of items of indigenous manufacture, these also escalate due to inflation. I am firmly of the view that while planning the modernisation of our Armed Forces, it is very essential to look at least fifteen to twenty years ahead. I would stress once again that having made a plan, adequate allocations should be earmarked each year and purchases should be made accordingly and not deferred for any reason whatsoever.

Now, let us have a closer look at the reequipping of our Defence Forces. The Army is being equipped with a new range of small arms such as a new fully automatic rifle, a new light machine gun and a new carbine. These weapons will fire a new superior performance type of ammunition which has also been fully developed by the DRDO.

As the overall number of weapons required is extremely large and may result in logistic problems, it is imperative that an all out effort must be made by our defence production organisation to re-equip our front line units by the turn of the century.

Another equipment which is causing some anxiety is our long awaited Main Battle Tank, 'Arjun' which is still to complete its troop trials in this hot weather. It is disappointing to note that no production of this major equipment is scheduled during the current Eighth Defence Plan. In order to expedite its introduction into

Service, I would recommend that series production of the tank, its weapons and ammunition should be planned or even commenced in anticipation of its final design clearance; presumably, no further major modifications will be necessary. Modernisation of the existing tank fleet of T-55 and T-72 which have become very essential should not, in any way, interfere with the production of our Main Battle Tank.

A few days ago, our hon. Prime Minister had assured this august House that there were no pressures, external or internal, against the development and series production of indigenous missiles to meet the Services' requirements. Surface-to-Surface missile 'Prithvi' has been successfully completed all user's flight trials and presumably its production is already in hand. However, no provision is reflected in the 1995-96 Budget. It would be a great advantage to the Army if some supplies of 'Prithvi' missiles are made during the current Eighth Defence Plan period.

Similarly, our DRDO has completed the development of three other state-of-the-art missiles, the surface-to-air missile 'Trishul' and 'Akash' and the anti-tank missile, 'Nag'. In view of the hon. Prime Minister's assurance, the series production of these missiles will hopefully also be undertaken during the Eighth Defence Plan period. The deployment of the 'Prithvi' missile along with the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher which is under development by DRDO should give a big advantage in range and fire power to our ground forces.

As regards the Air Force, they have been pressing over the last several years for an Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft so as to speed up and give better training to our young pilots. There have been an abnormal number of accidents due to pilot error and inexperience and we have lost an unacceptable number of first line aircraft in the process. It is heartening to note that commercial negotiations are in progress with the short listed suppliers for the acquisition and indigenous production of a suitable AJT.

The upgradation of Mig-21 BIS Squadrons in the current financial year will greatly enhance the combat capabilities of the Air Force.

Similarly, the proposed upgradation of MIG 27 aircraft is most encouraging. Although there is a demand for a multi-role combat aircraft with deep strike capabilities, it is appreciated that the acquisition of the large numbers required would be unaffordable at the present moment. However, good progress is reported on the development of our own light combat aircraft and every effort should be made to expedite its early development. In order to enhance the capabilities of our existing equipment, a number of systems of force multipliers are required. The most essential of these to my mind is Air-to-Air or inflight refuelling and the early development or acquisition of an effective Air borne warning and control system. The provision of this latter equipment will give us a commanding platform in space

to look deeply into enemy's territory so that ample warning is available to intercept hostile aircraft approaching our borders. It is also most essential that our ground radar is upgraded to make it gap free.

Turning to the Navy, I find that the Naval demands have been particularly neglected over the past years. The planning for construction of new ships too has been rather haphazard even though there is idle capacity in our shipyards. We have also successfully established the indigenous production of modern warships such as, Frigates, destroyers and submarines and a number of smaller Naval crafts. Since the lead time required for production of Naval warships is several years, it is, therefore, essential that advance planning, at least 10 years in advance, should be resorted to and firm orders placed on our dockyard. The sudden need for urgent replacement of aging aircraft carriers and submarines fully illustrates this point. Perhaps it is not too late to draw up a comprehensive plan for the regular supply of five or six warships annually so that the operational strength of our Navy is not depleted, as appears to be the case at present. Apart from adequate production capacity of warships, we have a highly competent design and development organisation in this specialised field. Perhaps an Aircraft Carrier or Air Defence Ship carrying a limited number of aircraft should have been designed to meet our own special requirement and also offered to neighbouring friendly countries.

The modernisation of ordnance depots and the computerisation of ordnance inventories is long overdue and when converted should result in very appreciable savings by way of reducing the procurement process to the barest minimum and at the same time disposing of large surpluses of Army stores, particularly those which are occupying limited covered storage accommodation, especially in the case of sophisticated items like ammunition and explosives.

Finally, a word about the Coast Guard which was constituted in 1978 and which is the latest complement to the Defence Services. The protection of maritime zones, maritime environment and anti-smuggling operations are assuming major international importance, particularly with the increasing number of offshore oil drilling rigs. Persistent efforts continue by unfriendly neighbours to smuggle explosives, weapons and narcotics into the country for augmenting terrorist and anti-social activities which have assumed menacing proportions. The Coast Guard which is being expanded with addition of modern equipment such as fast patrol vessels, interceptor boats, Dornier aircraft, rescue and light helicopters, apart from being complimentary to the Navy, also play a vital and increasingly important role in the security of the nation.

Madam, Chairman, I thank you, for giving me this opportunity. I once again reiterate that I strongly support the Demands for Grants for Defence for 1995-96.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Madam Chairman, I oppose the Demands for Grants, neither on the issue of any policy nor any problem be it technology or the functioning of the Defence Ministry but in regard to some cases in the Department of Defence and particularly in the Army, which I have not been successful in resolving outside this august House. These cases with solid proofs also appeared in newspapers but there is no clarification or denial from army authorities. The matter was taken up with the Minister of Defence, the Prime Minister as well as the Commander-in Chief but nothing has happened so far. I would like this August Parliament to come forward to the rescue those who put their lives in danger, fight the enemies and ultimately, became the victim of corruption prevalent there.

I would like to raise two big issues in this House. Now-a-days, the discussion is underway on Cut-Motions. I had thought of giving notice of Cut Motion but in this regard, we go by certain rules. However, I oppose these Demands for Grants. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave reasons for retaining the Defence portfolio with him but I was out of station. First of all, I would like to raise the issue of Army Welfare Housing Organisation. There are retired officers of the rank of General holding positions in the Organisation. This Organisation was set up for construction of houses for an ordinary jawan to General or the widows and children of the officers and jawans killed in war or military action. They contribute money for construction of their houses. The organisation has branches spread all over the country and earlier its Managing Director happened to be a Major General in the Army. I donot know about the set-up today. When I took up this issue with the Minister of State for Defence in December, then Major General M.M. Sharma was its Managing Director. This issue came up first in 1990-91. 242 houses were constructed by this Organisation in Sector 47-C, Chandigarh. After completion of construction, the members made payment to this organisation as demanded. The organisation runs on no-profit, no-loss basis. There were three categories of houses. It is said that amount ranging from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 4.70 lakh per house was collected from the members. When the houses were handed over to the members, they found that substandard material was used in the construction of these houses. The condition of the houses was the same as are constructed in Delhi, which become dilapidated and even collapse after one rainy season. After occupying the houses they took up the matter with the officials of the organisation time and again but to no avail. Then the house owners took up the case in the Consumer Forum, Chandigarh. On the complaint of Lt. General, Sartaj Singh the case was investigated and it was found that the construction of the houses was not according to specification and the agreement was violated. In this regard, 42 cases of omissions and commissions came to light. The Forum had sent the entire report to the Managing Director,

Army Welfare Housing Organisation three years ago but nothing has been heard from him till date. This is the state of affairs that an Ex. General sends a complaint through Consumer Forum but the Army does not pay heed to it. Thereafter, the matter was taken up with the Chief of the Army Staff in writing but there was no response. They should have understood that the flat owners were none other than ex-servicemen or widows. The matter was then taken up with the Building Contractor M/s. Rajaram and Sons; who filed a written affidavit in the Court that an amount of Rs. 2.25 lakh per flat was paid to them. Whereas, Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 4.70 lakh were charged from each member. The members then told that the balance amount be returned to them but again there was no reply. The matter was again taken up with the Defence Minister, the Prime Minister as well as the Commander in Chief Armed Forces. But there was no reply. Today, the hon. Prime Minister himself holds the charge of Defence portfolio. Earlier, we thought that this portfolio has been reserved for a particular person but now, the Prime Minister has made the things clear. I am, however, in no agreement with his approach. If he had the will, he would have looked into this matter.

Thereafter, this matter appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 10th September 1991. However, there was no denial from the Public Relations Department of the Defence Ministry. 'The Tribune' published this matter on 29.6.92 and 'Indian Express' on 19.8.93. Then again this matter appeared in 'The Tribune' on 21.12.93, but nothing happened. When such newspapers of world fame reveal this kind of corruption, it is raised in the House and discussions are held for hours together. But in this case nothing such happened. It is a corruption case involving 5 crores of rupees. The names of army personal are being mentioned in this scandal. Despite that, there is no denial.

This matter was raised in the House on 19th August, 1993 but despite lapse of more than one year, nothing has happened. 32 members went to consumer Forum but Army Welfare Housing Organisation got a stay from Punjab and Haryana High Court. Now, they are not in a position to take up the matter again in consumer Court.

This matter did not end there. One thousand rupees were taken from each of the 242 members of the society, formed in October, 1991, for maintenance of their houses even before allotment.

17.00 hrs.

However, it remained unutilized. Four garages were constructed for the members of the society through special contribution but they were kept locked and the members were denied use of these garages since they had unveiled this scandal. When no positive response came forth, I myself took these persons to the hon. Minister on December, 22. The Minister gave them another date and assured them that something will be

done. When these persons returned to their houses, they received threatening calls that if they dared go to Delhi, they will return as a corpse to Chandigarh. They rang me back. I took up this matter with the Home Minister and the P.M. I got a letter from the Home Minister on the 5th, which reads as under :

[English]

"Dear Shri George Fernandes,

Please refer to your letter dated 29th December, 1994 written to my colleague, Shri Mallikarjun, Minister of State for Defence, with a copy to me, regarding security arrangement for Lt. Col. Ajit Singh.

We have examined the matter. The Government of Punjab has been requested to take an appropriate action in the matter."

[Translation]

At least the Government examined the matter and reached the conclusion that the complaint was genuine. Since there was danger to the life of Col. Ajit Singh, the Government ordered for immediate action. So, with the instructions from the centre, security has been provided to Lt. Col. Ajit Singh and he can find himself safe. But, Sir, how this case would be resolved? This is not confined to Army Welfare Housing Organisation only. Such corruption is also prevalent in the societies of the Air Wing and Naval Wing of the Armed Forces. In one such case, news appeared in the newspapers. The matter was discussed in every forum and even went to the court. Then in January, 1993 issue of News Letter of the Air Force, Naval Housing Board, Bulletin No.22, a news-item appeared that the outstanding amount of Rs.6.29 crore would be returned to the members. Thus, when the matter reached its extreme, Rs. 6.29 crores were returned. I have got a proof to this effect.

Madam, I would like to know from you, what our Parliament is doing about it, because the Government is not in a position to set the things right. This case was referred to a higher official of the military but he did not respond. This matter is pending with the Government for the last four years. Hundreds of ex-servicemen and widows are unhappy over the inaction. Therefore, I seek the protection of the House. We should not confine to the requirements of the Armed Forces only but we should also think of the welfare of those people in whose hands the security of the nation rests. What can we expect of the system in which there are such elements who are bent upon looting their brethren or war-widows?

In another case, Lt. S.S.Chavan came to me when Shri Sharad Pawar was the Defence Minister. Today, I am very much ashamed because that man could not get justice from us. Shri Chavan was posted in Kashmir. On one night, during routine search of the houses, he found gold from one of the houses. He handed it over to his Search Unit Officer, who in turn said that the gold

should be given to the Unit Commander. I am not disclosing their names. I am mentioning the names of those who have now retired. I have got all names with me. Next day, when Lt. Chavan asked his Search Unit Officer about that gold, he at once denied of having received any gold. Shri Chavan produced the written evidence that he had handed over gold to the officer. That officer told him that he had gone mad. Then he was beaten up mercilessly. He was taken 25-30 kilometres away from Srinagar, where he was shot at and the bullet hit his abdomen. He fell down. Then he was taken to hospital for treatment. He was asked to forget about gold. But he did not relent. He was court-martialled and was sent to Kanpur jail. He was not allowed to meet any body. But somehow, he managed to write a letter to the then General Rodrigues. The letter reached the General.

17.10 hrs.

(MR. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

On the basis of the complaint, General Rodrigues ordered immediate release of Lt. Chavan. But, he was not released. When pressure was exerted from higher-ups, he was at last released from the jail. Then he came to Delhi but was not allowed to see General Rodrigues and other officials. When he failed to meet anybody, one of my colleagues sent him to me. He came to my residence with tears in his eyes. He was dismayed over the state of affairs. He told that three generations of his family have served the nation. His grandfather and father were also in Military. Where should they go now? I talked to the Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar. He heard the plight of Shri Chavan and ordered thorough enquiry into the case. In the meantime, Shri Pawar was sent back to Maharashtra and now God knows the fate of the case. Sir, I tried my level best that justice is done to Shri Chavan and the culprit is punished, but in vain. The culprits are still at large. When we do not pay attention towards such injustices, then what this Parliament is meant for? In the beginning, my hon'ble friends had asked me if I would speak on the demands for Grants of the Defence Ministry, I had said to them that I would take up only two cases. Before concluding, I would only say that if this House is not able to give justice to our jawans or their widows, I feel that it would not be able to protect the country. With these words, I oppose the the Demands for Grants.

[English]

SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY (Periyakulam) : I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence for the year 1995-96. I would like to point out that the Centre has let down the Defence interests of Southern India.

The Sethusamudram project has been hanging fire for a long time. I want this government to make an unequivocal commitment to the country on this issue.

I also demand that the strategic island of Katchativu Island ceded to Sri Lanka 20 years back should be taken back. The inaction on the part of the Indian Government has so far led to a large number of innocent fishermen being made captives at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy.

For effectively checking the LTTE infiltration a foolproof coastal force has to be raised for which the Tamil Nadu Government has requested for funds. The refusal to grant the requisite funds exposes the central Government's sincerity in tackling the extremist group which was responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I want the Government to urgently provide funds to the State for checking the infiltration of LTTE in the State.

I must place before the House a fact that today under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, there is not a single LTTE cadre left in Tamil Nadu undetected.

I also urge upon this august House and also urge this Government to bring a law for compulsory military training to all those aged between 12 to 18 years.

I am deeply pained to point out that the country under the present Central Government is being led to the path of disaster. The country's defence is being destroyed by the Congress Government. It is not the Congress Government, but the millions and millions of soldiers on the front and elsewhere who patriotically defend the country for whom the Parliament has all laurels and for whom the Parliament would gladly vote the Grants.

In the recent Assembly Elections, the people of various regions rejected the Congress and its policies. It show Assembly Elections were a referendum on the Congress Party's continuance in power. Despite the party's rejection only for the purpose of sticking to power this Government continues. This is a very bad situation.

There is a Government which enjoys massive majority in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is a Government of the masses. A person who enjoys a Minister's rank and who is the Chairman of a Commission on trade related matters is employed by some forces to destabilise the democratic Government in Tamil Nadu. The aim is clear. The designs are clear. Tomorrow it will happen in Andhra Pradesh. In West Bengal, some disgruntled communist party leaders have been chosen to launch the attack on the democratically elected Government. This will be enacted in BJP ruled States also.

I appeal to the Opposition Benches here to join the battle against the Congress and to attack this Government.

SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY (Periakulam)* : Sir, in Tamil Tirukkural

Thiruvalluvar say :

Uru Pasiyom Ovappiniyom Servpagaiyum
Seradhu iyalvathu Nadu"

(A country state shall be in goodstead only when it is rid of hunger, disease and enemies that pose threat to its sovereignty)

A country can live in peace only when its people are having self-confidence, self-respect and a cherished hope that their country can live longer as a better place for their off-springs to live in peace. We must put an end to the problem of hunger. We must ensure that people are provided health facilities to overcome the problem of diseases. We must also ensure that there is no threat to the territorial integrity of the country from across the border. There should not be enemies both from within and outside the country. We should put an end to the terrorist menace. We should not allow the militants or the terrorists to take control of any place in the country. We must also ensure that they do not get patronage, help and support from across the border.

Now we are discussing the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence. Before we could guard our borders from our enemies, we must ensure that our territorial integrity is intact and our national integration is preserved. There should not be any room for civil strifes in any part of the country. We must curtail those who are trying to create dissensions both from within and across the borders. We must ensure that such outfits are banned and controlled effectively.

The problems we face due to the terrorists who have the support from some neighbouring terrorist states are known to all of us. Though the Union Government has got under its control the Armed Forces, it could not contain effectively the threats posed by the terrorists in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam. The problems we have been witnessing in these States are yet to be resolved, even though centre taken it upon itself to curb this national menace. The Centre has the Army at its command. About 3,00,000 of our defence personnel and security men have been deployed there. But even the officials who go there are not free from danger. Security is not there even for our security men. Even a defence personnel or an Army officer cannot move from one place to another without adequate security cover. We find such a situation is prevailing over there. But in Tamil Nadu, the LTTE movement has been curtailed effectively.

The LTTE menace took its ugly head in Tamil Nadu from 1989 when DMK came to power. It grew rapidly as a result of which we had to lose one of our promising young leaders and the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But our revolutionally leader effectively curtailed the presence and the movement of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu within six months from the day she came to power. Even without the help of the Centre and the help from the Army, she has managed to put an end to the LTTE

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

menace. She could manage it with the help of police who are armed with obsolete weapons which were fit to have been used during Tipu Sultan's period. It has been acknowledged by one and all that she has completely wiped out the existence of LTTE in Tamil Nadu. Controlling LTTE is not that easy a task but she has accomplished this task. It is effectively enforced in Europe that shopkeepers and markets cannot sell anything the LTTE men. Initiating such bold steps, our revolutionary leader has wiped out from Tamil Nadu the world renowned national terrorist outfit LTTE. The task that ought to have been carried out by the Centre and the task that could not have been accomplished by the Government at the Centre was taken up by our leader. The mission that cannot be handled even by an Army has been successfully handled by our Chief Minister and that too with the help of police force. So our Chief Minister who functions so effectively should be congratulated by all of us here. She is administering the Governance of Tamil Nadu ushering in an era of peace. We must all come forward to appreciate her. Instead, a contrary is happening because of the jealousy in the minds of some people. If she is disturbed unnecessarily, it will only endanger the integrity of this country. At this moment her hands need to be strengthened to overcome the threat from the terrorists.

When this Congress Government came to power as a minority Government, we extended our support to it. When this Government faced No Confidence Motion in this House, all the AIADMK members extended their support to save this Government from falling. Why did we extend support to the Congress Government then? Because we thought that a minority Government should not fall at that critical juncture. Our leader with farsightedness thought that that may destabilise the country. She also thought that the election that might have followed would not have provided any party with the majority. It would have led to a situation where another coalition Government to come to power which might have further weakened the stability of the country. Our leader thought that that would harm the integrity of the country and would have created a situation where in the country might be divided. That is why our revolutionary leader thought that the minority Government of the Congress should be saved.

Our leader who has been accepted by all the Tamil people and the lakhs and lakhs of AIADMK cadre, extended her support to all the members who represent Tamil Nadu in this House now. All of them know that it is only with her support that they could win and enter this House.

While our valiant leader is contributing to the integrity of this country in a mighty manner, hindrance to her rule is being created by certain people. Congress which has lost power in many States, is trying to put spokes to other parties who have replaced them. Congress is extending support both covertly and overtly

to such people who are trying to cause hindrance to the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu. All MPs here from Tamil Nadu had obtained the support of Tamil people only through AIADMK, i.e., only through our dynamic leader Purachithalaivi.

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central) : Not all MPs.

*SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY : Now there is a concerted effort to mar the image of the Governments in States which have won the support of the entire masses. Certain forces are trying to put hurdles in the better functioning of such Governments.

Those who cannot climb up the roof to catch the hen are trying to go up the sky to capture the heaven. Those who cannot effectively control the problems within the country, are managing the defence. I have my own apprehensions as to how they are going to manage the defence affairs. Looking after Defence is no ordinary matter. It is the prime concern of the country. We can overcome the problems we face within the country but we need to be more careful to manage the challenges posed from across the border. The present Congress Government has no clearcut policy in handling anything and everything. We have our own apprehensions as to whether this Government would be able to defend our country effectively in the present international scenario.

So, there is a need to take care of the defence matters of this Country in an effective manner. I feel it would be better to have separate State Ministers to manage the separate wings of the Armed Forces like Army, Navy and the Air Force. There should be an independent Cabinet Minister to administer the defence portfolio. Only then there could be better co-ordination and effective management.

Our defence personnel are stationed in various parts of the country. They have behind their families in their native place. Likewise there are families and widows left behind by the valiant defence personnel who have given away their lives for the country. Such of them should be adopted by the country. Entire nation should take it upon itself to take care of them. We should think of a mechanism to take care of their welfare. The family members of the soldiers who have given their lives for the nation, should be provided with all the facilities to lead an honourable life. They should be provided with educational and employment opportunities. Like the family cards, they should be given separate cards with which they can get the things they need for their livelihood as they belong to the family of those who have sacrificed their lives for this country.

Our Army should be young, energetic and agile. Hence, we should recruit people right when they are in schools. The selection procedure should be like that of the procedure involved in selecting candidates for pursuing medical, engineering and legal courses. The people we select should be like doctors, engineers and advocates. The people selected for the Armed Forces

* Translation of the speech delivered in Tamil.

should be mentally agile and physically fit. We must catch them young. Such people should be given necessary training as per their choice. That would pave way for a better future and a more strong army.

Defence personnel are enrolled at a young age and they serve the Armed Forces for a specified period of time as per the contract they enter in. After 10 to 15 years, they retire. Most of them at a young age. Such people would be immediately absorbed in Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and other Para Military Forces. Civilian staff are getting promotions after completing 10 or 15 years. Men in uniform should also be treated like that. Once their specified time is over after 10 years or so, they should be automatically absorbed in other Departments. This way we can keep our army young and at the same time we can provide a sense of security in the minds of our defence personnel. This will also help the defence personnel to contribute their best while they are in active service because of the assured future awaiting them. When defence personnel serve in units away from homes, they should be free from the anxiety as regards to the condition of their families. They should not be worrying about the problems their families might be facing in their absence. The Government should come into picture evolving a viable mechanism from the welfare point of view. There should be welfare units to visit such families atleast once a week to find out whether there are problems and should come forward to help them. The defence personnel who serve the nation in a dedicated fashion should be able to breathe free with a confidence that their families will be taken care of by the state. The country should take care of them when they take care of the country.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I speak on and support the Demands for Grants of the Minister of Defence, I would like to pay handsome tributes to our armed forces for bringing normalcy in Punjab.

We, in Punjab, cannot forget the glorious role played by the Defence Services in restoring normalcy in Punjab. They have done it without firing any bullet and without killing any person. This is the remarkable progress achieved by our Armed Forces, in the maintenance of law and order and also in curbing the militancy in our State. Yesterday, our friend Maj. Sudhir Swant said that Punjab was considered to be a gone case and in that situation the role played by our Army is very commendable. So, I would like to place on record our wholehearted appreciation to our Armed Forces for the way they helped the people, especially in the border area.

Sir, they have mainly taken two positions which were very helpful to us. One was sealing the border which was very vital, because most of the trained militants were being sent from across the border. So, by sealing the border, the Army did a very good job and

helped the restoration of peace. The second thing done by them was patrolling. Patrolling in the affected areas had proved to be very successful. It acted as a deterrent to the militants and it helped in curbing the militancy in the border areas.

Sir, besides this, the Army has done very well in initiating certain welfare schemes. I would like to bring it to the notice of this august House that several welfare schemes were launched by the Army. Schemes like having a medical camp for the people, promoting literacy, helping the people in building good school buildings, building stadia and many other welfare schemes launched in the rural areas have made our Armed Forces very popular and brought the Army very much close to the people and that the people started loving them. This helped in a big way in bringing normalcy back in Punjab.

Sir, our friend Maj. Sudhir Sawant dealt with our requirements very extensively and so, I do not want to go into that. As far as our requirements for modernisation, acquisition of weapons and updating of our Army are concerned, I agree with the other hon. Members of the House that the Government should try to do all that is possible for achieving all these projects which have been mentioned in the Budget and which have been projected by the Armed Forces.

Sir, in the total budget allocations, Rs. 7,000 crore have been kept for modernisation and Rs. 2,000 crore have been kept for acquisition of new weapons. But that is not enough. The requirements as projected by the Armed Forces are bigger than these allocations. But still I feel that under the able guidance of our hon. Prime Minister all these schemes will be pushed through this year. If we go through all the schemes, we can find that there is a delay in some of the schemes and I agree with our hon. Prime Minister that there is need to push up these projects. There cannot be a better person than the Prime Minister himself to push up these schemes, because they are very vital for the defence of our country.

I hope that all these schemes, whether they are for modernisation of the equipment for the Army or for production of tanks, would be completed soon.

It has been several times said by the Prime Minister and also by our Defence Minister that the production of Prithvi is going on as per schedule. There is apprehension about it. I hope the Government is fully alive to this situation and all the required arrangements are being made.

The LCA Project has been very much delayed and the cost has increased enormously. I am just reading a few lines from a book "Conventional Arms Transfers" published by the Institute of Defence Studies wherein it has been stated :

"The delayed LCA Project has already cost 32 billion rupees. An additional 3.5 billion has been spent in developing the GTX-35VS Kaveri engine at the Gas Turbine Research Establishment."

The delay has already cost much to the Indian Exchequer. I think it will take a few more years to complete the LCA Project. Our Defence Organisation is on the job of completing it. It should hopefully be completed by the target date.

Regarding NPT, there has been a proposal that the House should make a regulation on it. I do not agree with that proposal. The Government policy is very clear on that. The Prime Minister has clearly stated that 'We are not going to accept this Treaty'. The Government has repeatedly said it and I am sure that conception of the Government is enough. It can be repeated in international fora and we must respect what the Government has said and there is no fear that our country will commit on that.

Our able Member Shri Jaswant Singhji said that we are going in for AK 47 rifle. Well, I would like to read three lines from the "Strategic Analysis", which is the latest publication. In an article "The Changed Nature of Warfare and the Small Arms Dimensions", it has been clearly mentioned that :

"This concept of portability was to reap sizeable benefits for today's infantry man as cannon, mortar and light anti-tank weapons, in addition to his personal assault weapon and grenade discharger form a part of his "golf bag".

A small Assam Rifle is now being manufactured not only by Russia or by only one or two countries but by many other countries also like USA, China, France, Israel and South Africa. I am sure we should not stick to our conventional weapons. We should look at the big countries who have specialised defence equipment, going in for small arms because it is very easy to handle them. They are not long enough and their weight is only 3 or 4 KG and their firing rate is very high.

So, it is very effective. I can say this from my own experience in Punjab. In Punjab, when our Police Force was provided with such a rifle, it became a deterrent to the terrorists. Before that, when the terrorists had these weapons, our Police Force was very shy of fighting the terrorists. So, the introduction of such weapons can be very useful. I do not agree with Shri Jaswant Singh in this regard.

With regard to Sainik Schools, something has been said. It has also been reported that there are shortages of personnel in the senior ranks. We have a Sainik School in Punjab at Kapurthala, the building where it has been housed was the Palace of Maharaja of Kapurthala. It is one of the very spacious buildings that we have. But there are a lot of difficulties to maintain that. The State Government is not helping and the Central Government has not enough funds. That is one thing. Well, some funds can be arranged. But the sorry state of affairs in the Sainik School is that not enough boys from it are coming forward for recruitment in the

NDA. There is no motivation amongst the students. This is alarming. I think this is where we are worried. If the students in the Sainik School are not having an urge for joining the Armed Forces, then it is very difficult to get the students from other institutions. All the best students are now going for IAS recruitment or for professional courses like medicine and engineering. They are joining medical and engineering colleges. The left-outs opt for joining Army, Air Force, Navy and other Services. My suggestion is that we must concentrate on our Sainik School. We must see that the majority of the students at least join the Services. They should be properly motivated. They should be given proper diet. Now, the diet given in the Sainik School is hardly worth Rs. 12.50 per day. These days, that is not enough. After eating so little, we expect them that and they fail. There is no urge on them to join the Army. So, the conditions of the Sainik Schools should be improved.

Now, I would like to point out one major contribution which we had from our Armed Forces and that was in the field of sports. We used to have all our best sportsmen, our Asian champions from our Services like Milkha Singh and other wrestlers. Nowadays, hardly good athletes are coming from the Services. I request the Defence Minister and also our Prime Minister to see that the Defence Services, which have been giving top sportsmen to our country, repeat that performance and come forward in a big way to help the country in producing good sportsmen.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh mentioned that there is no War Museum or War Memorial in the country. I think he is wrong. In Punjab, we have started in a big way a War Museum in Ludhiana where photographs, portraits and busts of our war heroes will be provided. It is not only in respect of soldiers from Punjab but also of the entire country. We are collecting photographs etc. of soldiers from all over the country. It is really going to be a good Museum. I hope the Defence Ministry should also help the State Government for bringing up that Museum immediately because they have also some financial problem.

Regarding War Memorials, we have War Memorials. We have got one of the best War Memorials, the Saragarhi War Memorial in Ferozepur Cantonment. Saragarhi was an incident where our soldiers had really done a wonderful job. A very heroic deed had been performed. We have a very nice Memorial, very well kept up and annually the Saragarhi Day is being celebrated. So, I do not agree that there are no War Memorials and our war heroes have been neglected.

I would like to suggest that the State Government should also come forward to help the ex-servicemen and also the families of the serving people because it is the duty not only of the Central Government but also the duty of the State Governments in this regard. They have their own Department known as the Defence Services Welfare Department in the State and in some

of the States like Punjab and Maharashtra they are really doing a good job by giving them some financial assistance and also giving them reservation in services and also providing many other schemes of resettlement.

Similarly, special schemes are being provided in Punjab for war widows. All the war widows of 1965 and 1971 wars are provided ten acres of land or a plot of one acre in the cities. So I hope that other States should also follow this and all our ex-servicemen, widows and the children of the service people should also be given the advantage of being looked after by the country.

In the end, I would like to say that in this Budget, the Central Government has tried to lay more emphasis not only on modernisation but also on updating it. This emphasis should continue and our DRDO should be strengthened. More funds should be provided to them. We are proud of them. They have done a very good job. I think, the whole country should appreciate the service which is being done by the DRDO. Results are there. Achievements are commendable. I strongly feel that more funds should be made over to all their schemes whether it is for Advance Jet Trainers or it is for missiles or it is for the tanks or any other equipment which required for the Army, the Air Force or the Navy. They should be arranged at the shortest possible time.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. Thank you very much.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are once again discussing the Demands for Grants of the Defence Ministry. We were denied this opportunity last year and this Government has established some sort of a record by guillotining the Defence Demands of two years — 1992-93 and 1994-95. And it is nice, therefore, that we are having a discussion on Defence Budget.

This Government luckily has been luckily to produce or present five Budgets. And during this long period, one had expected, one had wished that they would break new grounds, take some new directions in the matter of Defence funding and spending. And I had personally hoped, probably against hopes and very unwisely, that this Government would take this opportunity to do a "McNamara" to Defence budgeting and funding. In fact, in my very first speech when Shri Sharad Pawar was here, I requested him - he was an experienced politician and an administrator - that some new grounds ought to be broken and new directions ought to be taken in defence funding and budgeting. But sadly, the Government continues the policy of *ad hocism* and casualism. There have been nothing new in all these five Budgets, in all these five years. The Finance Minister thinks that he has fired a great gun by just telling the House here, 'well, no amount of effort will be spared for the Defence Forces and the defence of the country.' And he feels very happy by increasing the allocation from Rs.23,500 crore to

25,000 crore. He washes his hands off and everybody thinks that he has done great things. Everybody pats himself on the back.

Never mind, if this increase does not even cater to the inflation, what to talk of modernisation and various other things? But, everybody is happy and thinks that he has taken care of the national defence.

Sir, my senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh has spoken in great detail about the various issues, policy matters, equipment and other things. I, therefore, will not go into the details because of shortage of time. I would only like to touch the issues which are causing concern.

Sir, the defence of any country is not an easy task but defence of this nation, India, is a very difficult, very onerous and a daunting task, I do not know how many people realise this. We have a land border of 16,500 kilometre and out of that 7,000 kilometre is with Pakistan and China. We have a coastline of 7,600 kilometre. We have Exclusive Economic Zone extending to over 25 lakh square kilometre. We have over 500 island and hydrocarbon installations. Our areas are also being occupied by foreign countries. China had occupied 38,000 square kilometre and claiming another 19,000 square kilometre. Half of Jammu and Kashmir is with Pakistani occupation and it had gifted away 10,000 kilometre out of this to China. Therefore, one had hoped that with such a daunting task the Ministry of Defence would work as a coordinating and well-oiled machine between the national the Armed Forces and identify the problems and solve them. But, here again very sadly, all that the Ministry of Defence had at the best of times, done is that it had functioned as a post office and at worst time, it had functioned as an obstructive instrument in this machinery. Purely for vanity of some individuals, when some good proposals and good things are coming from the Armed Forces, they will not let them go; lest some credit should go to somewhere else. That is a very very sadistic attitude that has set in. Therefore, when new thinking and new direction could have been taken place all these years, we have lost valuable time.

Due to paucity of time, the issues that I am raising, I shall put in the form of question. I hope somebody will try and give some answers.

My first point is about threat assessment. Every year, we get a beautiful and glossy Annual Report from the Ministry of Defence. I am here for the last five years. I would certainly compliment the people concerned for its improvement in terms of information and its usefulness during the last two years. In this book, the very first thing that has been mentioned is about the national security environment. The Annual Report always starts with this. When you talk of national security environment where should it lead to? It should lead to threat assessment. When our country faces that threat, at that time the Armed Forces should have the capability to meet that threat. Therefore, my first question, is when

was this last threat assessment carried out by the Ministry of Defence, based on which, you have "tasked" the information to the Chiefs of three Services.

Secondly, based on this threat assessment, have the three Chiefs given you the capability that they want? Have you got this from each of these three Services, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force? If they have given it to you, which I am sure, they would have, have you been able to meet this? That is my third question. Fourthly, if you have not met this, then, have you reduced the task that you have given to the three Chiefs? If not, then how do you expect - without this capability being given to the three Chiefs - to complete the task, which you have given to them? Are you in the same mental make up that *ad hocism* and casualism will take you through a war? Our soldiers are very good and our Defence Services are very good. From my own experience, I can tell you, that we have gone through a lot of casualism and what we call, improvisation in the Services. But, how long will this go on? In this modern warfare system today, this improvisation will no longer work. It is all right that we have gone through it in the Second World War. This is a very serious matter. Unless we take the bull by the horn, you cannot wish it away. You cannot say that you have given this task to defend the territory, but you cannot give the capability. You have to do it somehow, otherwise. This will not work. We will be let down during war.

The next related question is; have the Ministry of Defence taken note of the Resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament on J&K? If you have taken note of it, what additional capability have you given to the Armed Forces to carry out the task, to carry out the role, to carry out the directions that have been given to this Government by both the Houses? A definite Resolution has been passed here which includes taking back the occupied part of the J&K. What have you done about it? Have you just heard it and let it pass off? This is a Resolution passed by both the Houses. I would, therefore, want to know what this Government has done to implement the Resolution passed by both the Houses of this parliament. If you have done nothing, why have you not done anything?

The next point is, there was an Estimates Committee Report, the 19th Report, which was submitted to the House on 20th August 1992. The Chairman of this Committee was Shri Jaswant Singh, a very able person. He had produced a beautiful Report, a very useful Report and extremely valuable suggestions were given. This went to the Ministry of Defence. For two years I tried to raise questions on this Report in the Parliament. I was told that the Action Taken Report has not come and therefore as per the procedure I cannot ask questions. I kept on following it up and personally kept on chasing the Action Taken Report to be given by the Ministry of Defence. The Report was given on 25th April, 1994. I have the Action Taken Report here and the person chairing the Committee is also sitting here

- Shri Bhoi. I would like to read out some of the comments that have been passed by this Committee on the Ministry of Defence and leave it to you to judge what sort of functioning this Ministry is carrying out. I will only read out some portions about delegation of financial powers.

"The Committee regret that the Ministry have not intimated the specific powers which have been suitably enhanced..."

The Committee desire to be informed of the details of the specific recommendations.

About combat effectiveness I am reading out the wordings of the Action Taken Report.

"It is indeed surprising that no specific replies regarding action taken by the Government in the direction of fleet modernisation, force multipliers for the Air Force and specialised troops for the Army have been given by the Ministry. The reply is couched in vague terms."

This is the wording. They have given a notice of three months to the Ministry to reply. This is the Action Taken Report of the Estimates Committee. After two years of hibernation in the Ministry, this type of reply is coming and these are the comments on that reply given in April, 1994 on the Report which was submitted in August, 1992.

"From this sort of response of the Ministry the Committee can discern a positive lack of action on its part. It is constrained to note that even after this Committee's recommendation that action to implement the recommendations of CDE should be expedited and the progress reported to the Committee within a period of six months, no tangible action..."

I would have liked to go into it in great detail, but because of shortage of time, I am not doing it.

About the manpower management it is said :

"From the casual manner in which the reply has been furnished the Committee cannot but conclude that the Ministry has not given serious thought to their recommendation..."

If this is the fate of the Estimates Committee Report, I do not know what would be the fate of our speeches.

"They would also like to emphasise that all the recommendations of the Committee need to be pondered over seriously and not replied evasively as in the present case."

This document talks of the medical facilities that have been given.

"The Committee wish to express their displeasure at the vague reply of the Ministry."

This is the type of response that has been given to a Committee of the Parliament chaired by an eminent Member and in which very senior Members are there.

Again, there is another general remark :

"The Committee cannot but express their displeasure at the way the Ministry has acted on their recommendations."

18.00 hrs.

Therefore, without going into the details of this I would like to know what is happening and why this sort of a casual attitude is being taken. Apart from not implementing any recommendation that has been given in the Nineteenth Report of the Estimates Committee, if this is going to be the type of response, then we need not have any examination of the problems like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Khanduriji, just a minute. There are four or five Members more, who want to participate in the discussion. So, I think that the House will agree to extend the time upto 7 o' clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Tomorrow, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I want to make a request to all the hon. Members through you that we may kindly extend the House today for at least one hour so that whoever wants to speak can speak today, and tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour of whenever the hon. Speaker indicates, the Prime Minister can make the reply. So, I would request you to kindly conclude the discussion today by allowing the Members to participate.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this again shows how dithering the Government is. They cannot even fix up the time for tomorrow, when the hon. Speaker will indicate the time. The hon. Speaker can be approached today. The hon. Speaker should have been approached today for fixing up the time. Then, the Prime Minister would have spoken at that time and then, there will be time tomorrow for the Members to speak here. What is the problem? Why could you not approach the hon. Speaker and ask him to indicate the time as to when the Prime Minister is to speak?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, I will only request you to kindly extend by one hour so that the hon. Members are able to speak and we will conclude the discussion. We will be prepared to reply to the debate tomorrow, immediately after the Question Hour.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No. Whatever it is, if there is to be no Zero Hour and if the Prime Minister is to speak after the Question Hour, let it be said so. But he is not saying so. He says, 'whenever the Speaker indicates ...'(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Last time, during discussions on the Railway Budget, some hon. Members had to speak and they were not given sufficient time. In four or five minutes Members will not be able to express what they feel about Defence.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Can we not know? Are we not entitled to know what is going to be the programme for tomorrow? If the programme is that immediately after the Question Hour, the Prime Minister will reply, we will look at it in one way ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall do one thing We shall just sit for one hour and...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : We can have the discussion for one hour tomorrow and then we can have the reply

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall extend it for one hour so that hon. Members shall participate. If there are some more Members, we shall continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For the time being, we will extend the House for one hour. Those who are interested may just participate in it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Tomorrow, if you bring it in the middle, then what will happen? There will be voting and all that. Some cut motions are there. A lot of time will be wasted. I think you can bring it to the end. About 4 o' clock or 4.30 p.m., the Prime Minister can speak. That will be the right time...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : With the sweet desire of the House, it is being extended upto 7 o' clock. Do you agree with this? The House is extended up to 7 o' clock. Mr. Khanduri, you can continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We will be moving our cut motions.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : The desire of the House is to adjourn today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only two to three minutes were given to Members during discussion on the Railways. There are people who have prepared their speeches. They want to contribute considerably.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, my submission is that if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister given us the time fixed for the Prime Minister to reply, if he could tell us at what time the Prime Minister is to reply, we will plan it accordingly.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, if you go though the time allotted to each political party, hon. Members have taken more time than that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Have we taken more time?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I am not objecting to that, but some consideration should be there.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : No, Sir. The point is only this. If the Prime Minister is coming at 12 o'clock, then it will be all right to extend time. But if he is coming later, then why do we not continue tomorrow? That is my point. My information is that he is going to reply at 4 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to intervene?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I want to intervene provided that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, I think, the hon. Members are prepared to have the House extended by one hour. The hon. Members have always been cooperating; and with their cooperation only, we have been running this House. Therefore, I will request the the same type of cooperation which they have been extending all throughout, will be extended today also. I think that they will not let us down on this...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are sitting on the supreme seat of this House. I will honour your Orders. However, I would request that the scale of justice should tilt towards justice and not towards the Hon. Minister. Only the treasury benches are in favour of extending the time of the House. Then how the time is being extended?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : If the hon. Members are not in favour of extending the time of the House, then no party should be allowed to speak beyond allotted time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is within the jurisdiction of the Chair and you are encroaching upon it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will tell you one thing. The hon. Members did not carry on the discussion according to the time allotted to each political party. There were very important points on which the hon. Members wanted to speak and they have spoken on them. That does not mean that other hon. Members should be denied the opportunity. There are other hon. Members also who want to speak. So, I think that it is better that the time of the House is extended.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only with the cooperation of the hon. Members of both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition, the House can run and not otherwise.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, we will agree to extend the time of the House by one hour. Already we have lost some ten minutes. Shri Khanduri to continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, we can extend the time of the House on the condition that only the opposition Members will be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please register our protest because we are not getting justice. Proceedings of the House should be carried on with the concurrence of the House ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your suggestions are very good. But, you just postpone it.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, I continue my speech as per your direction although the sense of the House is objecting to it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members who want to participate. Let us just compromise it.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, I shall now come to the next point which is pertaining to the ex-servicemen. Many people have spoken about it including the hon. Members from the ruling party. Everybody is worried and is concerned about the type of treatment that is being meted out to the ex-servicemen. There are many things to say. We have been discussing about it in various fora like the Consultative Committees or in the form of questions. Unfortunately, the Government does not seem to be serious at all on certain major issues.

Firstly, in this Annual Report, it is said that there are 55,000 to 60,000 people retiring every year from the Services. I do not know what prevents this Government from working out a policy for the utilisation of these people. I have been crying for this for the last four years. People are retiring at the age of 35, 36 or 37; and the trained manpower is being wasted out. It is a national waste. If they are utilised honestly, these people could make great contributions to the nation both in terms of discipline and in terms of various other functions. But I do not know what prevents the Government from doing it. A number of questions have been asked and they have recommended, but nothing happened.

So, I would like to know from the Government as to what is preventing them. Why do they come out with an open sort of information at least, if not a Statement? What is preventing them from doing so? Is it an objection from the Armed Forces side or is it Government's own compulsions? Is it problems of some other type which will emerge if you start utilising these 60,000 people? The Government does not seem to understand the simple fact that by utilising these people they are saving

a great deal of their pensionary expenditure and that money could be utilised for creating more jobs and other developmental activities. Here, you have a set of people - I am sorry that I am taking a little more time on this point - who are trained for a minimum of 15 to 16 years or may be, sometimes 20 to 30 years. When they go out, neither their skill nor their training is used and over a period of time, say, a couple of years, their training is not only being unutilised but it starts having a negative effect and therefore, the society is losing them to that extent. I do not understand the problem of the Government. Why does not the Government take any notice of these people? Therefore, I seriously and earnestly request the Government to kindly think over and face this problem. If required, you can make a small functional committee, not a committee for the purpose of postponing decisions which is normally done. You can give them a little time frame, say, three months, to get hold of everybody, try and utilise them. Eventually, this number is increasing. If it is 60,000 per year now, lakhs and lakhs of increase will be there next year and a stage will come when the total Defence expenditure and total Defence Budget will be going only in pay and pensions and other administrative matters. Therefore, this is a very serious thing. This is one side of the problem.

Now, the other side is the welfare of ex-servicemen and the facilities being given to them. There are many things which need to be looked into but the most important and serious thing is this. Please understand that whichever matter is bothering the ex-servicemen or whatever dissatisfaction is there amongst the ex-servicemen, it is not only there among them but it is also there in the serving people because everybody is going to retire and everybody is going to be an ex-servicemen one day. Therefore, people talk that if there are no facilities for ex-servicemen and if they are not going to be looked after, then how will they put in their best in service. Thus, it is affecting the morale of serving soldiers. Hence, you do not consider the problems of ex-servicemen in isolation.

Now, there are many examples but I would like to give a few examples to tell you the kind of discrimination or the type of neglect that is being shown. Now, there are people of Second World War vintage. I have said this again and again here. There are a very few people present here. I do not know how many remember it. The Second World War veterans were demobilised because the nation did not need them at that time. Some of them are of the age of 75 to 80 years now and there is no source of income for them. Nothing is being given to them by the Central Government. I raised this question here about a year back. I raised it in various forums. I raised it in the Consultative Committee. At the moment, they get Rs. 100 per month paid by some State Governments. In my State of UP, they have not received this money for the last about two years. They say that they have no money. Rs. 100 per month is given to a

man of 75 years! Mr. Minister, I have come across in my own constituency people, old people who have no source of income. Some people have nobody to support them and they have virtually become beggars. They are people of the age of 75 to 80 years. How many more years will they live? Even if you are to give them for 4 to 5 years, I am sure that they will not be in large number involving large expenditure? You are wasting so much of money in so many other things. Can we not do this? This is not merely a question of money; this is a question of mentality and attitude towards these people. This is not merely a question of spending crores of rupees.

The other question that I raise here in this. There is a thing called *Jungi Inam*. I do not know how many of you would believe what I am going to say. It is ridiculous that there are people who are getting a pension of Rs. 5 a month today. The man in my constituency has to spend Rs. 100 by bus to go to the treasury to collect this Rs. 5 a month. What is it? It was given in 1917 and the amount is given for two or three generations. It is a vanishing act. After three generations, he may vanish or may not be there. But you are not able to increase it from Rs. 5 a month. I raised this point here. I got a written reply from the Ministry of Defence saying that this order was of 1935, this and that and so, it cannot be done. What sort of attitude are you having? Somebody is getting Rs. 5 a month as pension as *Jungi Inam*! This type of mentality and attitude is creating immense damage to the psyche of the service soldiers as well as ex-servicemen.

Then, you talk about medical facilities. I have also been raising this point again and again. My voice has become hoarse but nobody seems to hear it. Now, gentlemen, there is a thing called disability. This report says 'if there is 20 per cent or more disability ...'

Now, I have two questions. I have raised them in the Consultative Committee meetings also. This is a repetition for information. When a soldier joins the Service at the age of 16, there is a very thorough medical check up. Every year, he is medically tested. You take him to Siachen; you take him to the desert; and then you take him to the jungles. All over, he is supposed to carry out extensive and intensive physical work, day in and day out. He is on duty twenty four hours. And then, when he becomes unfit, you declare that the ailment is not attributable to military service. How can it be? What sort of mentality you people have got? You take him to Siachen and all other places with difficult terrain and you give him facilities nothing worth the name. If he gets affected by frost bite and loses a part of his limb, you say that it is attributable to military service. But if he gets a heart attack, blood pressure or some other ailment you say that it is not due to the military service. Even if he were to be in Delhi, how did he get afflicted in the first place? You must prove that he is either a drunkard or a drug addict and say that

therefore he has to be punished. But you do not do that either. This is one aspect on which you have to apply your mind. Every year, you subject the man to a through medical check up. In Army like in other Services, if you are not fit, you will not even be considered for promotion. But one fine morning, when a young man of 24 or 25 or 26 years gets some ailment, you declare that he is medically unfit and you throw him out.

There is another aspect about which I have written to the Minister of Defence. It was in a question form and I got a very interesting reply. Let me give you the details. What is happening today with regard to pension and disability benefits? A medical Board say in a Delhi hospital or in some other hospital says that the medical disability is 30 per cent. Then it goes to CDA (Pensions) in Allahabad. There is a general duty army medical officer sitting over there. He says that the medical disability is 15 per cent or it is below 20 per cent with the result that the concerned person does not get his pension benefits and disability benefits. Why should the poor man be deprived of his legitimate benefits? What more qualifications does that gentleman in the CDA Office in Allahabad possess than the medical expert in Delhi or Lucknow or in Pune? There is no answer! You say that this is the order 1935 and these are the rules. This is the sort of reply that, got from Shri Sharad Pawar! Can't this rule be changed? Nobody seems to have applied his mind to this aspect.

You do not give any medical facilities to ex-servicemen. But there is no end to your boasting. You keep on patting yourself on the back congratulating that you have done so much for the ex-servicemen when it comes to medical and other facilities. But there are no medicines and beds for ex-servicemen. Of course, these are bigger issues and I am not raising any small issues here. If you recollect, I have raised this issue in one of the conferences chaired by Shri Sharad Pawar. When I retired as Major General, I went to the Army Hospital in Delhi which is the best Army hospital in the country. What was I told? They said to me, "Sorry, you are an ex-serviceman. There is no medicine for you. You go to the market and buy it." When these facilities are included in my service conditions, how can you deny? Or, if you have guts, you tell me that as an ex-serviceman, I am not entitled to avail of these benefits. You may simply say, "After retirement, you do what you like". You include these things in my service conditions. You deny me the facilities. And yet, you keep on boasting that you are doing so much for the ex-servicemen. If you have no capability to look after me, you might as well accept that. There are many such instances about medical facilities to the ex-servicemen. There is no point in taking credit for certain things which in reality are not simply done.

Now, for all these things, we are told that there is a shortage of funds. I do understand that there is

shortage of funds. But how well do you manage your meagre funds? I will give just two examples. You have got a certain sum owed to you by the Ministry of Communication. I raised a question on this in Parliament. You cannot collect the money owed to your Ministry of Defence Production from the Ministry of Communication. They do not even give any interest on the principal amount. And you cannot do a thing about it. Your installations are lying idle. Even within the Government Ministries, you have no financial management. This is one type of problem.

There is another type of problem. I am really sorry to point out these things but I must convey my point. I raised a question in this forum. An Air Force aircraft went from Delhi to Kozhikode on 12 January 1995. You can imagine the amount of fuel spent to send the aircraft from here to Kozhikode. What for it went? It took the Chief Minister of one of the States. Just because the aircraft could not be used by him, the Minister of State for Defence was put in that aircraft. When I raised this question in Parliament about the misuse of Air Force aircraft, I was told that they were sorry but they could not give a reply. But some information was given. What did the information reveal?

The aircraft reached there at 2005 hours and he came back at 2115 hours - one hour ten minutes it stayed at that aerodrome. I was told that the RRM did not even get out of the aircraft. This is the way you are wasting the money! If that gentleman had to go for attending some cultural function, he could have chartered an aircraft. You have lot of money. Do not waste the Government money; do not waste the money allocated for defence purposes. You can spend money on this, but you cannot give money for medicines. You cannot increase the amount of *jungi* awards from Rs. 5/- to a respectable amount. This is denigrating the Service people. You say, you have no money and then you while away the money like this.

Sir, before I come on to my last point, I would also like to join people who have talked about the achievements of DRDO. I am indeed very happy to say that DRDO is doing an excellent work. I had been in the Services for a very long time, that is, for 38 years. I was one of the bitterest critics of DRDO till about two years back for very valid reasons. Apart from doing big things in the missile field, the smaller things were totally neglected. I raised this issue. I spoke to the concerned person, Dr. Kalam, about it and he has now evolved a system whereby all those things are being taken care of. I would, therefore - not only for the bigger things for which he has brought credit to the nation, but also - like to compliment him for the areas which have now smoothed out on the routine requirements of the Armed Forces. I can say from personal experience that small things - whether it is a small paint or some camouflage nets and things like that - were being neglected at the cost of bigger things. Everybody talks of missiles and other things, so the concentration was

on such things. Therefore, I would, once again, compliment and congratulate Dr. Kalam and his scientists for doing a good job. I do hope that this will continue to be done.

Sir, my last point is on veneration.

Yesterday, my senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh spoke about it very feelingly. I could sense it sitting here at the back. We all feel like that. We feel humiliated; we feel insulted when there is across the board denigration of ex-soldiers for no reasons. What I mean is, the Britishers, under whom we were a mercenary army gave us respect for doing a job, but today they are being denigrated. Apart from the fact that some changes have to take place but how does one talk of routine things? In those days a person putting on red tape were in the rank of a Colonel or above and he used to be respected by DMs and Commissioners. The other day I was told that a Colonel, in uniform, went to a DM's office for redressal of a genuine problem. The DM did not even get from his seat; the Colonel stood there; he did not give him time and he made him wait outside for one hour. This man had come on leave with some genuine problems. This is the state of the senior officers. God knows and we also know but you do not know what is happening to the officers of the junior ranks. It is disgraceful. People get fed up. People in the Services get two months leave with great difficulty; most of them even do not get that. A man comes from Siachin, or NEFA or from other difficult area to get his problem solved. But nobody looks at them. You have failed to generate this sort of an atmosphere where the civil administration is made to give due consideration to the problems of the Service people. This happens even at your level.

Sir, I will give one example and then wind up. During the last three Railway Budgets, I have been raising a point here in this House that the Gallantry Award winners are not getting any rail travel facility. How many, PVC, MVC, VRC and *Ashok Chakra* winners are there? For three years I had communicated with the Ministry of Railways. I thought they would give it. When I personally met the Railway Minister, he said, they could not do it, the funding must be done by the Defence Minister. I wrote a letter to the Defence Minister. Today, they are getting concessions which is an insult to such gallantry award winners. A person who has been conferred PVC award gets second class ordinary fares. They are also freedom fighters. Why do you not equate them with the freedom fighters for providing the rail travel facilities? Are they less than the freedom fighters? But you do not give. I have been writing,; I have been requesting and I have been begging here for this, but with no response from the Government. Can you not spend a little bit of money on this? How much money would you need for this? The attitude is not there; the mentality is not there. You are devoid of any interest for their real welfare. That is why, I say that the Ministry of

Defence is not functioning as a smooth coordinator between the nation and the Services. It is functioning as a sadist obstructionist.

This has to go. I request you to see as to why this facility cannot be given. After all, here is a man who is ready to give his life. All of you may be knowing that getting these awards is not a joke. You say that a large number of freedom fighters are there and some of them even do not deserve but have got the certificates. You cannot get certificates like PVC or MVC just like that. So, why can you not do these small things for them? This is the type of message that you are giving to the nation. It is very sad indeed. I would like to say that this sort of mentality is very bad for the nation. I would like to conclude by quoting :

"God and soldiers are remembered in distress and danger. Distress over, danger thwarted, God is forgotten and soldiers slighted."

No Nation will prosper if it has this sort of an attitude. Therefore, I am not able to support this Budget which has been presented by the Government. This Government, which has wasted five long years.....

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : You will not get your pension then.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, it is better not to get pension and see the consequences rather than get pension in this manner.

This Government has wasted five valuable Budgets in not having any new direction. I wish the little bit of the energy which it utilized in trying to become a fraudulent majority Government from a minority Government, it would have applied in changing the direction of the Ministry of Defence. I, therefore, oppose the Budget.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in this vital discussion on the Defence Budget. Of course, tomorrow the Prime Minister will reply to the debate to the satisfaction of this august House. Various points of sensitive nature as well as otherwise have been raised by the hon. Members. While initiating the debate, Jaswant Singhji made really good points. I wanted to deviate from the order in which the members spoke and wanted to first take up what Shri George Fernandes said in his speech. But he is not seen in the House. I think he has gone home.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : He has not gone. He will be coming as his briefcase is lying here.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Some realities have been brought before the House by the Members from both

sides. I wanted to start with what Shri George Fernandes referred to in his speech but since he is not here, I will not deviate from the traditional list.

Jaswant Singhji has made five very good points regarding policy, manpower, Defence expenditure and so on and so forth. Shri Fernandes has come. So, with the permission of Jaswant Singhji I would first like to take the points raised by Shri George Fernandes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If Shri Fernandes is the source of inspiration for you, we have no objection.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, not only the source of inspiration but he is also the source of perspiration!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Only because of his emotional expressions I wanted to first take up the points raised by him. We all share his concern. He did not speak much about the Defence but about certain set backs to the ex-servicemen.

He has referred to the Army Welfare Housing Organisation. I remember, he met me and I was making an endeavour to understand what exactly the situation is. In the Consumer Forum at Chandigarh, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, a Contractor has given a Statement about Rs. 2,25,000 or whatever it is. But the fact or reality as such is that it is only in consideration of the building cost which the Contractor was entitled. On the other hand, I do not know what is the cost of the land in a place like Chandigarh, in a Sector like Sector-47. We normally calculate the cost of the land also. Apart from the cost of the land, the AWHO which has taken this task, has to meet the other requirements like water supply, electricity, sewage and so on and so forth. So, when all these payments were made by the AWHO, the final price has come to Rs. 20,000 less than what was estimated. So, merely this contracted money has no relevance because the other things have also to be met with and the hon. Member has mentioned lastly. They have collected Rs. 1000 from each of the 142 members, of course, for maintenance and other things. But, what has happened is, this gentleman who met me and whom Mr. Fernandes has referred to, Lt. Col. Ajit Singh, formed a Cooperative Society, that is fine nothing wrong with it. He declared himself as its President, nothing wrong with that either.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He is the Vice-President.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Vice-President, or whatever he is. The organisation has asked them to have an elected office bearer so that all these things can properly be accounted for. Even, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, he wanted to take possession of the four built garages. But, there is something between the management and this organisation and the newly formed Cooperative Society. Anyway, since so emotionally the hon. Member has given so much of importance which needs to be sorted out, and since he has represented

what has happened from top to bottom since four years, all that I can do is, if the hon. Member agrees, I can ask for an inquiry.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Have a Court of Inquiry.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We will decide the mode of inquiry because there are logically two or three points which may be convincing or may not be. For example, the Contractor has placed before the Consumer Forum that he has been given Rs. 2,35,000. Rupees Four lakhs have been collected from each member. Finally, the AWHO says that it will be Rs. 20,000 less than the earlier estimate.

The formation of cooperative society and other things can be inquired into.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : May I say something?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Yes please, I have deviated only for your sake.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would like to say that this case has been pending since 1991 and only this much of information has been received after lapse of 4 years. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that an enquiry should be instituted immediately in this matter because the entire Defence establishment is misguiding the hon. Minister. I shall prove this. They are misguiding the hon. Minister even today.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : How can I say, who is misguiding whom.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : As the things stand today, nothing is being allowed to reach you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Nobody stops.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But in this case, it was so.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : You had seen me on this case.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am speaking about the Government. This case has been hanging fire since 1991. A lot has already appeared in newspapers. There were headlines like Corruption, Cheating, Looting, Looting Ex-Servicemen of their money etc. but you did not respond to even a single word. What was its reason? If that was the case of land, why did not you respond? Why did not you save the prestige of Army. Today, they are saving their skin through the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Whatever is being said in Parliament, the reply is being given accordingly.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But they are misguiding you. This is my experience.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I am responding to this point. If it is proved, action will be taken.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is what I want. An inquiry should be conducted immediately. We do not want anything more.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : The Managing Director of Army Welfare Housing Organisation is a serving Officer and tomorrow when he will retire he will become an Ex-Servicemen.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Even the hon'ble Home Minister has given them police protection. The matter has reached such an extent.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This aspect will also be deeply inquired into.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The hon. Home Minister would not have written a letter to me without conducting an inquiry and then given them protection. After conducting an inquiry, he wrote to Punjab Government after four months to give them protection.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Everything will be inquired into.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I am sorry I do not mean to offend the Minister, I know his health condition. I am not making it as a laughing matter. It is not a laughing matter. I do not mean to be harsh. I know what the whole case is about.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If you want to place your points of view also before the Inquiry Committee, you can do so.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : You do it. For that reason I am declaring in this august House that the points on which you are agitated, I am also equally concerned. I am also concerned about the welfare of the ex-servicemen. If any hanky-panky is going on in the organisation that has to be brought out.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Thank you.

What about Mr. Chavan?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Mr. Chavan's case, as you have rightly said, is slightly different. We will discuss together that case separately.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : All right.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So, Sir, as the hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singh, who initiated the debate has immense knowledge about the armed forces. He had made certain points on policy, manpower, expenditure and so on and so forth.

So far as the policy is concerned, I shall not say anything because without a policy nothing can move.

As far as expenditure is concerned, I certainly agree and I have been emphasising that financial management has got more relevance and that is how we will be able to meet some of our requirements. Fiscal discipline is an essential ingredient today for any developing country to achieve progress and prosperity in the respective fields. And for me also this fiscal management shall certainly help in meeting my own requirements.

So far as the Budget is concerned, whatever be the increase, we should take inflation into account. Mostly, in the financial management we find there is some account. Mostly, in the financial management we find there is some wasteful expenditure. So, controlling the wasteful expenditure, controlling the inventory and better utilisation of our assets would help us in attaining the cost effectiveness. We can save money which can be utilised.

We have recently introduced Integrated Financial System from the Defence Accounts side. Now, we have placed top accounts officers and controllers in the three Services so that they can help in working out their financial system. In this connection, I would like to say something more. We have named it as Integrated Financial Advice in the Service Headquarters. A senior officer of the Defence Accounts Department has now been posted in each Service Headquarters for giving advice on financial management to the Services. Moreover, certain identified establishments have now been given considerably enhanced and delegated financial powers together with a dedicated finance set-up. This 'New Management Strategy' provides an opportunity for the Service Officers to manage their resources and activities in the most optimal manner. In-depth changes are also being effected in various aspects of Budgetary control, the focus of which is being shifted from the minor and sub-head levels to the detailed heads of allocation. So, this is how ... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, will the Financial Adviser be totally and completely under the control of Service Headquarters or is he going to take orders from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Defence or both? I also want to know whether the writing of Confidential Reports and other things will be totally under the control of the Service Headquarters.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This is only to facilitate the Service Headquarters when they are thinking of their finance to help them. But it cannot be under the Service Headquarters for their... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, this is no Integrated Finance. The Integrated Finance concept is that under which he is not only responsible for advising but also accountable for anything that goes wrong. Therefore, he has to be totally under the control of the Service Headquarters. Therefore, this Integrated Finance is being done by private firms.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I think what you are telling is right. This is being done.

Now, Sir, I will come to modernisation. I am going in a little different way. But I will come to modernisation.

Sir, modernisation has become inevitable and in a phased manner we have to modernise it. We have to take into account the acquisition programmes of the three Services. The war wastage reserves are the stocks of ammunition and weapons required to be held in reserve for use during conflict, of a duration foreseen in the prevailing threat scenario. Deficiencies had crept into our holdings of certain items, which we are planning to make good now on priority. We expect that 70 per cent of the deficiencies will be made good by this year itself...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : What are you going to do with the manufacture of arms and ammunition? We learnt that in Avadi a number of modern machines were bought and installed there but were not functioning. Have you got any plan in Defence production with a new outlook and a new policy? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Defence production units are fully engaged in production of arms and ammunition. And, you know, there are other public sector units like HAL, BEL. I will deal with them later...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I want to know whether you have got any new programme or total overhauling of the entire system, which was going on, if you are dealing this point with an outlook. As far as HAL is concerned, I know that one of their units situated in Barrackpore is going to be crushed. They are not expanding it. Are you going to dismantle it?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : After fully utilising the existing installed capacity, then only we will think of expansion.

Now I will come to the Services. Shri Jaswant Singh and several hon. Members have raised their concern over the Navy because the Navy did not get the required budgetary support for the past three years. But, this year, the Prime Minister was kind enough to see that the Navy gets a good share of the Budget. In fact, the allocation, which is 34 per cent more than the previous year, had been made to the Navy.

Today what exactly the present position of the Navy is this. Ship building programmes are in progress at our defence shipyards. Construction of three missile frigates, four Corvettes and three Godavari type vessels are being produced. Other small missile boats are being produced by the Goa Shipyard and the Mazagaon Docks. Apart from that, we have planned for the modernisation of the 877 EKM submarines by the introduction of torpedo decoy systems, very low frequency communication systems and electronic support measures upgradation. Likewise the Sea Harrier

aircraft of 1980s vintage are also proposed to be upgraded with a new radar, better avionics, electronic warfare equipment and improved missiles.

We are also modifying TU-142 and IL-38 aircraft and equipping them with air-to-surface missiles. With the addition of these three force multipliers, the combat capability of the Navy will considerably improve. We have a programme for new acquisition. The proposal for manufacture of 10 dornier aircraft by HAL is at an advanced stage of approval. Acquisition of six frigates from Russia and construction of three frigates at our PSUs are also being considered. Under the replacement programme, we have recently acquired a frigate from U.K. for training purposes. Purchase of fleet tankers from Russia is at an advanced stage. The proposal for the construction of four fast attack craft has also been recently approved. Construction of air defence ship, submarine frigates and four medium landing ship tanks at our PSUs are also planned.

The hon. Members of the House are aware that Government has sanctioned projects, C-CAT for setting up an integrated and advanced naval base at Dharwar in Karnataka with most modern infrastructural facilities for providing operational, technical and logistic support to naval warships, submarines and aircraft. The hon. Members of the House would be happy to learn that the Government has approved a proposal for the establishment of permanent Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Cannanore District for the training of officers cadets.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Just one point. In fact, it is heartening to note all the details you have given. But as far as my knowledge goes, INS Vikrant has another few years, in fact much before the end of the century. Now that is running. If you want to go in for a ship like this, you need 15 to 20 years. Have you taken note of this?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We have totally taken note of what you are talking about the INS Vikrant and also Virat. They have to be phased out and we are planning how to replace them.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Regarding defence production, we must be indigenous. We must be self-reliant. We have got big infrastructure including good laboratories, persons and other things. What is the policy and what is the programme of modernization to utilize the capacity of the production including that of the Ichapore Rifle Factory, Metal and Steel Factory?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So we have to plan.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : It will take 15 to 20 years. We are still planning.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Simply we want to know.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I will tell you. Just have patience. Now I will just refer to the Army. I do not have to say much about the Army because all of us know how dedicated they are under the able leadership of

the three Service Chiefs, how the Armed Forces' personnel have been conditioned mentally and physically and how dedicated they are with absolute discipline.

Sir, I will come to the modernization of our tanks. You see, we have T-72 tanks which are producing and also T-55. Now we are planning for upgradation of it.

This upgradation is with self-propelled 155 mm calibre guns mounted on the turret of T-72 chassis. That is in progress and that will be completed.

So far as the Infantry is concerned, we are trying to see how lighter things can be given to the Infantry. Hon. Members, Shri Jaswant Singh and others have referred to the utilisation of the 5.56 mm rifles. They will be used and we are trying to provide them to the Infantry.

So far as the Army is concerned, it is needless for me to say about the MBT. In collaboration with the DRDO we are working on it. The indigenous production is successful and the summer trials will be exploitation trials finally. However, the Army has given the go-ahead for MBT and I am sure that it will start going into production at the earliest.

There are many other schemes being implemented by the Army and for the information of the House I would refer to them briefly. We are acquiring improved air defence system comprising missile platforms and guns. We are engaged in improving the Electronic Warfare capability and the surveillance capability of the Army.

Another major area of development is our search for an attack helicopter, whether leased or on sale, as an interim solution pending the development of our indigenous light attack helicopter.

I will just refer to Air Force. Almost all the hon. Members had referred to the AJT. Of course, it has taken quite a lot of time, but now technical negotiations have been completed. As only two producers were there, they have been short-listed and commercial negotiations will start.

Shri Amal Datta was asking why we should not go in for a Russian Jet Trainers. There is an offer for Yak-130 and Mig AT trainers but they are in the design stage. Their prototypes have to be produced and their capability has to be established. That is the stage so far as the AJT is concerned.

Referring to the Services, we possess all the necessary equipment and other things however, to keep our Defence-preparedness upright. We are producing indigenously certain things and also acquiring certain other things so that our Defence-preparedness shall not have any setback.

19.00 hrs.

So far as self-reliance is concerned, we have to go in for indigenous production; ten years' self-

reliance plan has been made and by 2005 A.D., we will be able to achieve at least 70 per cent of indigenous production.

Now, I come to the DRDO which is really playing a vital role in supporting the armed Forces. DRDO has been doing a great service by research and that is how Light Advanced Helicopter, Light Combat Aircraft etc. have come. The most important achievement of the DRDO is particularly on missile technology.

As far as missiles and other matters are concerned, tomorrow the hon. Prime Minister will reply to them. But let me say one or two sentences about the Prithvi missile which is a major concern. Shri Jaswant Singh has raised it, other hon. Members from both the sides have raised it. Shri Indrajit Gupta has quoted my name also. Sir, please see as to how many years it had taken in research to come to this stage where Prithvi had successful user trials. I hope everybody will agree that it is not within six months that it has surfaced. So, we will not come under any pressure from any quarter of the world. This has been repeatedly informed to both the Houses by the Prime Minister and also otherwise. I do not know what is that apprehension, what is that illusion prevalent that India is under the pressure of this country or that country or USA etc.

Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta has mentioned that Joseph Nye has said in the USA that Prithvi has gone into hibernation and Agni is in suspended animation and Shri Mallikarjun has told that we have yet to take a decision. What is that decision yet to be taken? After successful trials I have not told anything to the Press. I have told the bare facts to some of the friends in the Press in Abu Dhabi when they asked about Prithvi. I have not told that we are capping Prithvi; I have not told that we are going in for a series production. When a section of the Press has written, I have controlled myself with patience and tolerance because it is about Prithvi. I did not talk to the Press outside because I know that I have to reply one day in this august House. If our Press friends take my expressions now in a correct perspective it is all right. Otherwise, there will be another article and we have to tolerate it because the Prithvi is agitating everybody.

They are asking, what happened to 'Prithvi' and when are we deploying it? After all, at what stage is it now? After the completion of the user-trials, the consequent activities are progressing. 'Prithvi' is not just a few letters, but inside it, how many assemblies, sub-assemblies, components, digital devices, electronic devices and so many other things are there? So, we have to mobilise all those. Even now our hon. senior Member, Jaswant Singh Ji will agree or not, I do not know, but we are not capping the 'Prithvi'. There is no question of yielding to pressure. When my national security is concerned, there cannot be any compromise at any stage. National security is prime. For the national security, when my troops are sacrificing their lives, when

the people of this country are behind the Defence Forces, when even the Opposition Members cooperate and urge that more budget should be given for Defence, when we say it to the Parliament that in the interest of the national security, this cannot be revealed and the Opposition leaders and the Press agree to that, when this much support we are getting, how can I say that 'Prithvi' is capped? If somebody has written somewhere in London and if some Press here has referred to that, it looks as if they are clever enough and we are otherwise. It is not like that. Press also has to play a constructive role in the national interest. I do not want to say anything about the Press. They are at liberty to write anything they want. But there is no question of capping the 'Prithvi', there is no question of...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Suspended animation!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : No. There is no question of hibernation. Even that person who has used the word 'hibernation', should know that after hibernation it comes out. There are certain animals like earthworm which go into hibernation, but later on they come out. So, even if it is in hibernation, it will come out.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : So, it is in hibernation.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : It is not in hibernation. There is no question of its being in hibernation. The consequent activities are being progressed. This is the word one can keep in mind and anybody can analyse it. So, this is about 'Prithvi'.

We compliment our DRDO scientists and Dr. Abdul Kalam, for working on other missiles also, like 'Nag', 'Trishul' and Aakaash'. So far as 'Agni' is concerned, what has been achieved is a technological demonstration of DNT into the weapon and various other things. So, let us not make it an issue. Moreover, if the hon. Member, Maj. Gen. Khanduri has to go to war, I am sure he will not show what is in his chest, he will keep it secret. If he opens it to the public, then there will be antidote. War strategy is also there. With strategy one can win the war. So, this is the position about the missiles.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : The doubt arises only when words like this are used that it was only a technological demonstration.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This is where we have to have our own self-confidence. Without self-confidence it is very difficult to achieve anything.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : We have to go ahead from that stage and not stop as demonstrator and be done with it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If it is to be stopped, why so much of energy and time has been wasted on it? Therefore, for a proper planning it takes time. This is the stage in which it is now and that is what we are informing to this august House.

So far as the D.R.D.O. is concerned, let me say something more of their achievements like Super Computer.

There are one or two important things concerning D.R.D.O. which they have developed like "FALCON", 'PINAKA' and 'LAKSHYA'. 'Lakshya' has undergone user trials with Air Force and Navy which have been completed and it is under user trial with Army. These are Pilotless Target Aircrafts.

Last month, on 23rd April, our hon. Prime Minister has visited Hyderabad and unveiled a powerful parallel processing computer system called the PACE PLUS developed by the D.R.D.O. This is by far the fastest computer of its class. The manufacturing know-how has also been transferred to our industry. To give the Members a few salient points of comparison with similar computers of foreign origin, I would like to mention that for aeronautics applications, PACE PLUS is 2.5 times faster than the CRAY-YMP-C90, 9.5 times faster than CRAY-XMP-14-216 and 8 times faster than the CRAY-XMP-1416. In terms of unit cost, while our PACE PLUS costs Rs. 20,000 per megaflops, the CRAY computer typically costs in excess of Rs. one lakh per megaflop. This is an achievement which the country can truly be proud of.

There are many achievements of the D.R.D.O. You all have appreciated them and it is needless for me to read them all.

Then, I will just emphasise on two-three points about our U.N. peacekeeping forces. our troops — whether in Somalia or Mozambique or now in Rwanda or Angola — have been and are doing very well. Hon. Members have appreciated them. Our troops deserve appreciation. They have kept up the prestige of our nation and with discipline and dedication worked wherever they were sent.

I am not actually touching the other sensitive issues like army deployment for counter-insurgency duties particularly J&K and North East.

Then I want to mention about human rights. Pakistan has been speaking not only nationally but it is internationalising the situation. All are convinced that our army personnel have been restrained in their action carefully keeping the human rights aspect in their mind.

We have a Human Rights Cell at the Army Headquarters, Command Headquarters and Core Headquarters and we are strict in dealing with cases of alleged human rights violations. Any Army personnel who violated the human rights, they have been dealt with severely. So, the propaganda made against India about human rights violations is totally wrong. But anyway, we are all conscious of it.

Now, I will come to the most important point and that is about welfare. Welfare is essentially an important thing in which serving or ex-servicemen should be taken care of. The Government's aim always has been to

extend the best facilities which the country can afford to the troops, by way of health, nutrition, education and shelter. It is true that because of resource constraints, we cannot always do as much as we would like to. The troops for the most part recognise this limitation, and take it in good grace. The most important issue here is about the housing problem and accommodation. This year, apart from the normal allocation, Rs. 136 crore have been additionally allotted so that we can provide married accommodation in 38 stations. Another important thing which the hon. Members will appreciate is that we are planning to build a Cancer Hospital in Delhi for serving and ex-service personnel of the three Services. We hope to extend this facility over the next few years to Command Headquarters Centres of the Army, and in Bombay and Bangalore, in phases.

There have been shortages of Officers in the ranks of Captains and Majors in the Army. This is not a new phenomenon. One of the reasons for these shortages is the cadre structure of the Army. To make up these deficiencies, measures such as University Entry Scheme, enhanced induction of permanent and Short-Service Commissioned Officers, induction of women officers, etc. have been taken. Government are closely monitoring the situation.

Sir, I may also add that, contrary to some reports which have been carried by certain sections of the Press, a large number of youth continue to appear for selection for the Armed Forces. The pay and allowances of the Armed Forces personnel are at par with those in equivalent civil employment under the Government. The Armed Forces personnel are entitled besides to a number of perquisites and facilities not admissible to their civilian counterparts. The review of the terms and conditions of the Defence Services personnel is, of course, an on-going process, and such improvements as are considered desirable and feasible are made from time to time.

Sir, we are proud of the contribution made by the Defence Services, both in peace and war, and would like to place on record our appreciation of the commendable work done by them. The need to maintain a high standard of combat efficiency and a youthful profile for the services compels us to release a large number of Service personnel at a relatively young age.

Being conscious of their problems, Government have always been committed to provide them all possible assistance for their resettlement and welfare. Apart from a system of job reservations, a number of schemes for assisting in their self-employment are in operation.

Several types of financial assistance, such as grants from the discretionary fund for marriages of daughters, repairs of houses, education of children, and for medical treatment have been enhanced. Monetary allowances for post-Independence gallantry awards, such as for the Param Vir Chakra and the Ashoka Chakra series

have been enhanced, while demands for a similar increase for pre-Independence gallantry awards too have been accepted.

To help retiring service personnel with the admission of their children to the Kendriya Vidyalayas on their retirement, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has agreed to grant a one time facility for the admission of upto two children of retiring personnel, if the class strength is less than 45.

The facilities available for the treatment of ex-servicemen too have been enhanced. Twenty four MI rooms, and 12 Dental Centres have been set up in areas where the population of ex-servicemen is high. It has also been decided to provide financial assistance from the Army Flag Day Fund upto 60 per cent of the cost incurred by ex-servicemen and their dependants on some expensive kinds of treatments, such as bypass surgery, angiography, kidney transplant, cancer etc. Rs. 33 crores have been sought from the National Defence Fund for modernisation of hospitals in the Armed Forces.

The benefit of one-time increase in pension which had earlier been sanctioned to certain categories of pre-1986 pensioners has now been extended to several other categories, such as State Forces pensioners, Territorial Army personnel, Battle Casualties Pensioners, and KCIO pensioners. About two lakh additional pensioners will benefit from this, to the extent of approximately Rs. 20 crores per annum.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : There has been a persistent demand by all ex-Servicemen all over the country to constitute a Committee to look into the anomalies in pension of ex-servicemen. You had this OTI. After that, you had this Secretaries Committee. In spite of that, there are a large number of anomalies still left. They have been writing letters on this issue. I have suggested in this House to have a Committee, not of bureaucrats, but of other people to look into the anomalies left. You could appoint either a Consultative Committee or a Committee of Parliament. There are a large number of ex-Servicemen who will understand the problems. You can involve other people also. Merely a Committee of bureaucrats is not going to give any benefits. Therefore, the feeling among ex-Servicemen is that their viewpoint is not being understood by the Government. There are genuine anomalies. I, therefore, suggest that something should be done about it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I take your point.

As you know, about OTI, a high-powered Committee under the Defence Minister was constituted when the anomalies were found. The Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary. Quite a number of categories have been accepted.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : That is right. That is a step forward. But I think still something more should be done.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If there is any category deserving, we will examine it.

Sir, actually I did not talk much about the security scenario. The Nation's security is vital for us. Under any circumstances, India shall not tolerate external aggression. India is a peace-loving country. India has no territorial ambition. Our Armed Forces and their preparedness are such that they can meet any eventuality. So, as a peace-loving country, we are doing our best. As you know, recently, our Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan had a talk. India would like to settle the issues by bilateral talk under the Simla Agreement. India does not believe, not today but from antiquity, in any type of aggression, violence and other types of things and in spite of the known fact of interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of India, still as a peace-loving country, India would like to settle the issue bilaterally.

I do not want to go much in detail which is known to the whole of the country. The whole country knows what type of a role Pakistan is playing in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, how the ISI is trying to destabilize the country. But one fact of reality which I would like to emphasise is that India will never compromise so far as the security of the country is concerned, so far as the national integrity and sovereignty is concerned. We believe in Panchsheel. I do not have to refer to it. In 1955, after the Bandung Conference when Mr. Chou-En-Lai was on his way to Peking, he adhered to Panchsheel which has been enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual benefit on these lines, India's policy with her neighbours and other countries will remain. We would like to settle our issues bilaterally with Pakistan. I am hopeful that Pakistan will understand the feelings of the Indian National and they will open the dialogue.

Sir, thank you very much. Once again, I am thankful to all the Members of Parliament who have participated in the debate and also those who have heard me, who have extended cooperation to the debate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pramotes Mukherjee, you can speak only for three or four minutes. If you agree to that, you can speak.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) : It is already 7.30 p.m. So, I should be given a chance to speak tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can complete it today. Can you? I do not like to compel you. I leave the matter to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not speak? How much time do you want?

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : I require only five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can continue. You are so liberal.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Thank you for giving me this chance to express my views on this important matter on behalf of my party the RSP.

I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence. This is only because that this Government could not build up a good defence of the country during the last 47 years. This Government could not take into consideration that the Defence is the most important subject which is closely associated with the sovereignty of the country. So, I cannot appreciate the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

It is my observation that a good economy indicates a good Defence. A good and stable economy of the country indicates a good and stable defence of the country. Without a good and stable economy, a good and stable defence of the country cannot be expected. This Government could not produce a self-reliant economy. This Government could not create a good and stable economy. They have already sold out the country's economic sovereignty to the diktats of Euro-American imperialism through the signing of the GATT Agreement. And naturally, this Government could not build up a good and a stable defence of the country and the entire defence mechanism has been subjected to the diktats of Euro-American imperialism. This is why, I cannot appreciate the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Let us now turn our attention to the present global scenario and the present national security environment. What do we see? We have already seen during the last five or ten years the collapse, that is, a temporary collapse of the Soviet system in Russia. After the temporary collapse of the Soviet system in Russia and a temporary collapse of the socialist system in the East European countries, the bipolar world has turned into a unipolar world. Even in this unipolar world, we do not find peace and tranquillity. We find that the period of tension and conflict is still continuing. We have seen that there is tension, that there is conflict among the industrially developed countries. There is tension and conflict among the imperialist forces, among the industrially developed countries. That is why they are inviting wars and they are imposing war upon the third world countries, upon the developing countries. This is the result. That is why, we have seen the Gulf war, the imposition of the Gulf war upon the people of Iraq. We have also seen all these things. We have seen the role of the United Nations. We have seen the role of the Europe and American countries in the Gulf war. That is why, we have to prepare ourselves. The tension has not passed away; the conflict has not passed away. The period of tension and conflict is still continuing. So we have to prepare ourselves; we have to build up our stable defence. But this Government could not do so. This Government could not create encouragement for the purpose. So I would like to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

One thing more. There is a question of modernisation. Many of the hon. friends and the Members of this House have already suggested for the modernisation.

Restructuring and modernisation is the order of the day. So, the modernisation of the Defence mechanism and the restructuring of the Defence mechanism is a must in order to cater to the needs of the changing scenario. Unless the Defence mechanism is modernised, we cannot create stable Defence. For this purpose, I should also remind you that we should make positive attempts and create enthusiasm so that we can create confidence, we can create resolution, we can create firmness among the younger generation and among the new cadres of the Defence; and for this purpose, I should suggest that we should create an atmosphere so that they can be allowed to have love for the country, a sense of sacrifice and a sense of patriotism. They should inculcate all these qualities in them in order to defend the country. But this Government, this machinery could not do so.

Lastly, I will not tax the House any more, I should consider the mood of the House and I should say that there is a question of policy recruitment. The good Defence depends upon the good recruitment, but the

policy as it is continuing till today for recruitment, but the policy as it is continuing till today for recruitment is not a sufficient policy; it is not a scientific policy; and it is not a realistic policy. We shall try to find out that a good scientific policy for recruitment to the cadres of Defence should be developed. Unless it is developed, a good, successful and desirable result from the Defence cadres cannot be expected.

With these words, I beg to conclude and I, in fine, beg to oppose the Demands for the Grants of the Ministry of Defence. This is what I beg to submit to you, Sir. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I thank you very much for the gracious and liberal attitude that you have extended towards the Chair in conducting the Business of the House in the extended time.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 10th May, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

19.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Wednesday, May 10, 1995/
Vaisakha 20, 1917 (Saka).*
