

Hon. Lal Bahdur Shastri had resigned due to a rail accident. So you should also resign.

SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD: Do not say so for your own publicity. Kindly listen to me. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Was the dangerous situation not known earlier? Now I understand that this road has been closed temporarily, after the event has taken place.

Why was it not thought of by the Indian Airlines and the Administration earlier?

SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD: Yesterday, the hon. Chief Minister was also there. He has ordered that there should be some barricades so that while taking off and landing, the road should be closed.

One hon. Member has said, Boeing 737 is an ageing aircraft. Yes, some of the 737 aircraft are aged aircraft. But according to the manufacturers, as far as their life is concerned, with normal maintenance and overhaul, the minimum life is 20.. (Interruptions)

They have not reached even minimum life so far. Flight utilisation, I must say, cycle flown should be 60,000; it has just flown only 50,000. Hours flown should be 60,000. It has just flown only 43,000. So, ageing factor is not correct. of course. There might be other contributory things. That is why, we instituted a judicial enquiry.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: First, tell us how will you take the public into confidence. (Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is an unfortunate thing that the accident occurred but it was not in our own hands to avoid it (Interruptions)

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI: The year is just beginning and two accidents have occurred... (Interruptions)

16.20 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)  
1993-94

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, I was saying that after having signed that agreement that we will build a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether, after having signed that treaty only with one country, we stop there, or we as a great country which has taken several initiatives for the total disarmament and also evolved a world free from nuclear weapons, whether we will take further initiative, may with some other neighbouring countries, may be with China, whether we have explored the possibilities of signing this kind of agreement or, may be with other non-aligned country, with Indonesia which happens to be today the Chairman of the non-aligned movement or whether we will collectively, from the non-aligned countries, will take some initiative so that this major burden which is basically on the developing countries is no more there besides the danger which continues to be annihilation of humanity.

16.21 hrs.

(SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair)

Sometimes there seems to be contradictions, in our policies, in our pronouncements and in our implementation and that creates unnecessary doubt and it also provides opportunities to our enemies and opponents to us. That situation against us. For example, on the one hand, we talk that we are against nuclear weapons. But it is

reported that when our former Defence Minister was visiting Russian Federation in last September, 1992 he was negotiating for acquiring nuclear power submarines unleashed. There was also a report that the Secretary of the State of the Russian Federation Mr. Gennady Burbulis made a proposal that Russian Federation and India should have collaboration in defence hardware and we can produce perhaps jointly tanks, aircrafts and other hardware in third world countries. If it is a fact that we were trying to explore these possibilities and also negotiating for this kind of collaboration for production of weapons, then it goes against our pronounced policy of peace, of control of armaments. Sometimes this kind of situation developed which goes against us.

During the last few years, particularly after the disintegration of Soviet Union, certain unfortunate situations had developed in Yugoslavia and in Gulf countries.

Now the United Nations in the name of peace-keeping and also in the name of peace-making, are sending their forces. This is also creating a serious situation. Today the world is only a single super-power world. Everybody knows that United States of America is having its almost total domination in the Security Council and in the United Nations and its armies are being sent to many countries in the name of peace-keeping and peace making. What is the policy of the Government of India?

I would like to know whether the Government of India contribute to this policy because we ourselves had sent a peace-keeping force to Sri Lanka. Of course, it was on the request of the Government of Sri Lanka. But now this kind of a situation is sometimes misused. There are serious apprehensions in the minds of the smaller countries, in the minds of the military weak countries that if there are any internal conflicts or if there is any political destabilisation or if there are any political conflicts within the country,

the United Nations forum will be used for sending these peace-making and peace-keeping forces. So, we must have a clear policy about this. We must work out a very clear policy towards this end. Sometimes, we also unitedly join those peace-making and peace-keeping forces.

Sir, a new policy, a new announcement being made after the unfortunate conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. Rather, I will not say it is a conflict. I will say that it is Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. The question is that after that conflict, some countries started saying that there is a power vacuum in that area, that has to be filled up. After all, the Philippines took the initiative that they would not permit the strengthening of the army bases in their country and the foreign forces will have to leave Philippines. Then, again, the talk started. It has been stated that there will be power vacuum in that region. What is this power vacuum? Who is going to fulfil this power vacuum? The point is that sometimes these moves are taken by certain countries which try to project themselves as if they have the monopoly of making peace and keeping peace and it is their responsibility only. In the name of that responsibility, in a given situation, they try to exploit the situation.

There is another thing which I would like to remind the Prime Minister. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, when he was the Prime Minister of our country, was intervening in the Defence debate. That was in connection with the Defence debate in the Lok Sabha. In his intervention he said two important things. First, he said:

"The equation of our defence is our defence forces plus our industrial and technological background, and overall economy of the country. . ."

He also said that in addition to that, our economy should also be strong. Ultimately our economy has been strengthened to the defence and security of our country. The most important thing, he said, is:

"In addition to that, it is the spirit of the people, it is the patriotic spirit for unity, for the safeguard of our security and sovereignty that is very important."

That is also very important. That relates not only to our Defence policy or to our economic policy but it also relates to our educational policy, it relates to our national integration approach, it relates to our communal harmony and our security also. It also relates to a new approach to meet the challenges which are thrown out of the society and also thrown on the international arena. Therefore, it is important. He also further asked: how is it that our defence burden increases? It increases because if with some of our neighbours our relations are not good, if some of our neighbours take an opposite, aggressive and anti-country policy, in that situation also it increases. Therefore, he emphasised by saying:

"The right approach is to avoid unfriendly relationship with other countries especially with our neighbours.."

There is a good opportunity today. Our relationship with China is improving. Should we not take much initiative today at this time not only for mutual understanding, joint cooperation in economic areas but also joint initiative in the international arena. India and China were signatories to the Five Principles of peaceful coexistence. At that time we were not economically very strong, militarily also we were not strong. But we were strong in our value orientation. We were strong with certain philosophy which gives us strength. Therefore, the principles of Panchasheel became the basis and today I think, it is high time it is not that China should take the initiative and we should wait that again India must take initiative for regional cooperation. I am not talking of regional security. It has other implications. That has to be thought out very seriously. But India should take initiative for regional cooperation. We are facing certain problems in the SAARC countries.  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): You are a senior Member. Sometimes we have to think it calmly that China has occupied our land. During Nehruji's regime an oath was taken in this House that unless we reclaimed every inch of land from China we will not sit quiet. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not record anything. You can express your party's viewpoint. He is expressing his party's point of view. Let us behave ourselves.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Thank you very much. Therefore, I was saying, perhaps, today, in my opinion there is a favourable situation and India must take advantage of this favourable situation also. It is not that I am talking of China only. I am talking of Indonesia. I am seeing and exploring the possibility of talking to those which have similar approach. May be in today's situation, United States of America also will have to think afresh because the situation of confrontation with another powerful super power is no more there. But the question is, there are certain points on which certain countries might have certain ideals. With certain ideals, certain understanding, they should take initiatives. I feel this is the time when India should be able to take this kind of initiative.

I will now come to certain specific things in our army. I think, that Indian Army, by and large, has stood well and has also been able to get the respect, appreciation of Indian people in any difficulties. By and large, our Army has been effective, has been patriotic has done well in any period of crisis and has been also very objective. More than that, the responsibility which has been assigned to Indian Army rather they have done much more than that. Unfortunately, they are being used for peace and law and order situation inside the country also. It is unfortunate that the law and order situation in our country, particularly the communal country has been

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deteriorating and people fortunately have full faith in army today and wherever army was deployed they were able to play an admirable role. But we must also think of the situation which we face today. The situation is not very hopeful, very optimistic. I feel that this decade is going to be a decade of confrontation, a decade of violence, a decade of political destabilisation only because of the fact that there are certain serious problems confronting the society. There is certain vacuum in our value system. There are certain new forces which are fighting over their rightful place in the society.

There are people who are not accepting the change, who are becoming blind to the new situations, to the questions of justice, to the question of equality, to the question of human dignity. And, therefore, this situation may arise. We are seeing this for sometime and even the minority Government which is functioning at the centre, maybe, for some more years, is also seeing this. In this new situation, I think, our responsibility becomes much more greater. We have to go into the basic problems as to how to strengthen certain things. Our Prime Minister said, in the beginning, when he took over as Prime Minister, that he will try to find a national consensus. I am saying that it is not only national consensus but the collective wisdom of the nation should try to find collectively certain solutions for certain problems. It may be about our system, as to how to improve our system, how our system should be able to meet the new challenges, and how to meet this communal virus. Certain forces are openly challenging our basic values, the values which give strength to our national unity. If there are deliberate attempts to create this kind of a situation, are we going to use the Army more and more for these purposes or will we try to find out certain other alternatives to look into that situation?

Sir, I feel that India cannot bear the great burden of modernisation of the Army. We have a quite large standing army. Now, it is high time

that we must think, whether we can have reserve forces, whether we can make compulsory the military training for our young people, who can be prepared and who can be kept in reserve and in time of crisis, whether they can offer their services for the defence of the country, to meet the challenges. Now such a big burden, I do not think, that a developing country and a poor country like India will be able to bear. Therefore, this is high time to think about that. And today, perhaps, a large Army is not the only answer. If you send an Army, a dynamic Army, well-equipped Army which can meet the challenges, that I think is a question about which I would like the Prime Minister and the present Defence Minister to have a policy. Today, it is also a question of paying more attention to our research and development. It is not only that the Government should do that. In India, there are other private organisations. On a very small scale it has started that. We are trying to get the help of certain private organisations which can, perhaps, manufacture certain things or which can concentrate in certain areas of research and contribute to our defence. That has started. But, still, it is on a very small scale. I think that the Government must explore the possibilities. I am very sure that the Indian industrialists and the Indian scientists, if given the responsibility, for cooperation and contribution in the areas of defence, they will be able to do it with a sense of patriotism. There will be no let down. We should rise above suspicion or above that policy of rigidity that no, it has to be exclusively in the hands of the Army. I think that is another thing where we must try to think.

Sir, I feel that our Navy has to be upgraded. We have a very large coast line of 7800 kms. We have to pay greater attention. Certain neighbouring countries have paid greater attention. One of our problems is that our neighbouring country Pakistan the way it is going on developing nuclear power, nuclear weapons, it is paying more attention to its Army, Air Force. It is spending a lot of money. It is not necessary that we should imitate Pakistan. But we have to be very careful because we know that if there is a



political instability in that country, if we know that the leadership of the country—whether it is military leadership or political leadership is trying to take anti-Indian stand, it creates a problem. Therefore, we have to have a proper line on that also. But it does not mean that we fall prey to their anti-Indianism. We should make an attempt continuously on the basis of our policy, to develop friendly relations with the people of that country and even with the leadership of that country, if they are responsive. They are trying to isolate.

One weakness in our policy is that our propaganda machinery, publicity machinery and public relationship is very weak. Somehow, we have seen that Pakistan always tries to exploit the situation and many times puts India in the wrong box; and we, later on, go on explaining things. That weakness also must be removed. I think that we should pay greater attention to our recruitment and training policy.

I was reading, only yesterday, about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. One of the issues which he made at that time, in 1930 and 1932 was that certain sections of the society, the weaker section, were unfit, they thought and that they would not be good soldiers. That was a wrong policy, imperial policy, a feudal policy and anti-people. Therefore, I think that we should pay greater attention; all sections of our society should have a sense of participation in the largest organisation which is responsible for the defence of the country.

There are many complaints in the recruitment policy. I hope that the Government will pay greater attention to see that the recruitment policy is free from corruption, is free from nepotism; and proper policy is framed so that objective recruitment is made. Our officers and soldiers have given their best performance in some of the crises and we are proud of them. But, since new armaments are coming and since new strategy is being introduced in the warfare, we need to pay greater attention to our training. I am sorry to say that in our armed forces, we do not have enough trainer aircrafts to train them. While other

countries have purchased during the last few years, several trainer aircrafts, to train their people, we have not been able to do this because of shortage of money. This kind of shortage of money should not be allowed; it will damage the preparation of our defence capability. I will also say that defence is a very expensive affair today. A very large amount of money is spent on defence.

Sometimes there are rumours, sometimes there are reports; we have read certain reports in certain magazines. It is unfortunate that this kind of report is there. I am not saying that they are baseless reports. 'India Today' came out with a news item saying that some higher up officers in the Army, because of their temperamental differences and because of certain prejudices, had to fight against each other. There were certain complications. Even it appeared that "there were charges of communal riots in certain matters". So, I think that enough care should be taken in such matters; and if any officer of high rank indulges in such things, he must be taken to task and no scope should be there to let people doubt them.

I will not take much time of the House. So, lastly I would say that the Standing Committee on Defence very quickly had been able to produce a report. This is a very major decision and in that report, it has been mentioned that certain steps were to be taken to effect economy in our Army. They have suggested that they should be able to make a thousand crores of rupees savings. Therefore, inventory control in army is an important thing because it is one area where not only a few crores but several thousands of crores of projects are involved. There should at least be some elementary control. The whole system should be computerised.

My last point is about the ex-servicemen problem. The former Defence Minister was able to form a high-powered Committee. I happened to be a member of that committee. Our ex-servicemen have many genuine and justified demands. We wanted to meet their maximum

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number of demands because they were genuine demands but the Finance Minister at that time said that the economy is in great trouble and that he is not in a position to sanction fund to meet their demands. We at that time made a kind of compromise saying that for the moment about hundred crores of rupees may be given to the ex-servicemen's is cause. Though there was dissatisfaction among the Members but the Committee submitted a unanimous report on the understanding that as soon as the economic situation of the Government will improve, the Government will pay necessary attention to the ex-servicemen's problems. I request the Prime Minister to have a fresh look towards the demand of the ex-servicemen. It is not a very big amount which they are asking; may be another Rs. 50-60 crores will be required. It is a very genuine demand. They are the people who give their lives for the nation. They fight for the country in the most challenging and difficult situations. We find that certain State Governments are very unresponsive towards their demands. These people are fighting in the front. They are living in the most difficult areas. Under these circumstances if these people are troubled for small things; like their children not getting admission in the school or there is no proper health care and so on, it disturb them a lot. Therefore, it is our national duty to see that proper attention is paid both by the State and the Central Government and also by the non-governmental organisations.

With these words I conclude my speech,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Datta, the time allotted for your party is only 18 minutes and there are two speakers in the list from your party. Please adjust within this time.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour):  
Sir, I appreciate the figure. I will not ask for any special privilege.

This is an occasion which is made possible

by the fact that the makers of the Indian Constitution did not see fit to ordain that the Defence Budget will not be debated for the purpose of giving grant to the Defence Ministry and the Services. I say this because I feel that given the present attitude of the Government, which I have been observing for the last 12 years that I have been a Member of this Parliament, if the same set of people would have been in charge of framing the Indian Constitution they would have surely put a provision that the grants for all departments have to be passed by the Parliament but not the Defence. The whole attitude of the Defence Ministry and the Services appear to me to regard this occasion as an unmitigated but unavoidable evil when Parliamentarians must perform talk about Defence.

I am also forced to speak about the Defence Budget although I wish I have not been compelled to do so because there is very little to speak about it which is relevant to the subject. If I have to confine myself to the topics which are relevant to the debate, I really have very very little information on which I wish to speak. I wish to oppose this Demand. But even then, there must be proper material to do so. Where is that material? Is that material available in this book? This is the only an authorised publication of the Government from which we, MPs, are supposed to derive all information. The rest are the magazines and the newspapers which play this side or that side. And sometime times they say that Pakistan is acquiring this weapon or that weapon system and then, on the wake of that, some people come to India and try to foist some planes or some submarines or ships. And we make a purchase after that. Everything has been pre-arranged. Now, therefore, I wish that the Government would make available the information, in which an informed debate is possible. This is my ninth participation in the debate on the Defence Budget. I have started to participate right from 1984. I think, in the year 1992, there was no debate on this demand. Even I feel what is there to speak on. From this book, it appears that there has been no change in the

direction Nothing new has come about, although the world has changed According to this book, there is no change in our region, and therefore, we have to go on with the same kind of defence preparedness

Now I come to the threat assessment aspect We find, from this annual Report, that it is really very general and very vague and to my mind, quite amateurish I do not know on what basis, what intelligence, they made the assessment What is their basis apparatus, their organisation, their method, their system, their instruments to gather the intelligence? We do not know that Are we not supposed to know at least whether they possess the latest equipment by which to gather information and whether they understand and apply the latest procedure for doing so? We are not to know anything of this kind In this book, in an amateurish way, they describe what has happened in the world, they said that the nuclear arms has been reduced by one third and is going to be reduced by another one third And it goes up to 2000 A D and at that time it will be only one third of what it was used to be in 1990, and so on But in this part of the world, Pakistan is not playing the game That is the tune That is the message sought to be conveyed to us But what have we done to see that Pakistan also plays the game? Have we tried anything of that nature? Since the entire world is changing, can we not make an effort? There is nothing in this to show that we have even made an effort which will enable us to reduce our defence expenditure We have not done anything Now, we are only told that Pakistan has been acquiring arms and they have given statistics from 1980 From 1980, Pakistan has been acquiring so much arms Therefore, we must gear up our defence preparedness further and further But what have we been acquiring from 1980? If they want to draw any conclusion, they should also give the other side of the picture as to what we have been doing We have acquired jaguar, mirage submarine, Mig planes, German submarines and Russian submarines They are not saying that They are only saying that Pakistan has acquired F16 and some other planes They have

not mentioned about the ships I think, Pakistan has not acquired ships Any way, the point is that when we say that there is arms race between this country and Pakistan, which is a smaller country, then we should be careful to see that we are not the initiators of that arms race Have we got anything here to show that we have the peace initiative? They must be afraid I would have been afraid of big neighbour I am not holding any brief for Pakistan But, we in our own interest should see that there is no arms race We should try to allay any apprehension that they may have that we are starting an arms race everytime we go for acquisition of new weapons

With great credit towards we say in the chapter on Navy that we have the builders Navy Fifty four of our naval vessels have been built in this country We did not have to acquire them from abroad as we have the facility to build them We have got that strength We have got submarines, the German submarines we have got four Then we have got 9 or 10 Russian submarines and nuclear submarines and we also got a nuclear submarine for some period We are holding up a picture to our neighbouring countries that we are a big power and even USA and some other countries of the West started saying that India is a regional super power It does not mean that we have got to go on spending more and more money on defence

I do not understand the lament of some people why the Budget is no more than what it is If you compare with last year, it is not much more But, if you compare with 1984 when it was Rs 3000 crores and now the Defence Budget is Rs 18000 crores In fact, total expenditure on Defence is much more than that Rs 18,000/- crores is the expenditure only on the three services but if you take the Defence Ministry and defence pensions, the total expenditure goes up to Rs 24,000 crores That is the total Defence Budget because that is the amount which goes out of the exchequer for the purpose of ensuring the security and integrity of the country Even, if we have to have a big budget, we can minimise it in many ways I have already spoken about one of the ways namely

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the economy measures. But, there are other ways too. If we are able to assess the real strength of Pakistan in which all the services and in which all the areas, within the services it is strong and capable of assaulting us then we can correspondingly acquire strength in those areas which are to put up defence against them.

Now, there is a unipolar world. Naturally, Pakistan is not getting the attention which it was getting earlier. In the context, of defence Pakistan and no other country, not even China is considered to be the enemy. Therefore, we have to gather intelligence about Pakistan and if we have that then only we can concentrate on certain areas for gearing up and do not have to spread our resources throughout the gamut of all the three services that is Army, Navy and Air Force.

Then we can organise ourselves to repel their attack if and when it comes at a much lower cost. We have to have a special emphasis on electronics because warfare has now become electronic warfare.

17.00Hrs.

Today the world has gone into electronics. There is no special emphasis on electronics in this budget I am not seeing, on whatever I could gather from out of this Budget. I cannot do anything I cannot decipher this Budget at all. The Budget is not self-explanatory. It does not say anything from which I could gather information. If they are doing it, very well. It does not seem to me because the Budget is in the same pattern as of all these years Budgets. If there is any expenditure hidden under some head, I do not know.

What I can say is that the Government has not given special push to electronics. If you have done it, tell us that you are doing it; because then we will know that the Government is in the right

path. The key words today are command, control communication and intelligence. This is the area in which the Government must concentrate. Once it does so, it will know whether and how to beef up the strength of the army. Now we are trying to develop a Main Battle Tank. We are trying to develop it from 1972. It is still under development, it is still being developed. There is claim in this Annual Report that there has been a successful trial. I am glad that these trials are successful. If you are going into production and if that hassle is over, it is good and nothing else need to be done. But I do not believe that this is the case. It remains for the Government to say clearly where they stand regarding the M.B.T. I believe it is not fully cleared and accepted by the Army yet.

We have been developing again on the Air Force side the Light Combat Aircraft. Why do we need it? I do not know. Nobody has explained although there has been demand after demand every year during the Budget speeches by some Member or the other that we must carry on; we must expedite development of L.C.A. etc.

We purchased the Jaguar. When we purchased the Jaguar it appeared that we did not need any other plane. We needed a plane with which we would be able to penetrate the defence of Pakistan and fly at a tree top level and bomb their sargodha. Air Force base of Pakistan immediately after that purchase deal was over planes started to arrive and the planes are still coming; they are still being built, the ones which could fly in peace just some time ago.

After that deal was over, immediately we said: No, no this will not do; we have to go and get some plane which can play a multi-role. And for this multi-role we got Mirage. And now Pakistan is trying to buy Mirages and we are crying wolf because Pakistan is going to buy them. We bought them in 1982. We bought them without the weapon system. Everybody in the country knows we got them without the weapon system; only we in this Parliament did not know.

17.03 Hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We went on buying various types of planes. At that time we were buying MiG-21. We started buying MiG-27 and MiG-29 and we are still carrying on buying them or building them here. We do not know which way to go.

We do not know which line to pursue. Therefore, whether it is army or navy, the question is where to give emphasis. Because we do not know exactly how the enemy is gearing itself and how the enemy if at all is going to attack. We do not know the capabilities of the enemy properly and, therefore, all round the gamut we are trying to develop and we are wasting our money.

The other sphere in which we are failing although there is some ray of hope now a days in R&D. For long year and I think every year, we have been both criticising and demanding more money for R&D. This year also I do so. R&D has not been able to serve the country as it should have been able to. The self-reliance of the country is far-off because of the failure in that front. The failure in that front is more a failure of management. The top management of this particular vital organisation of the Defence Ministry has been lacking. I have brought it to the attention of the Government on these salutary occasions that we get year after year. But they had not taken any steps. But fortunately some change has taken place now. I hope that change is sustained. That means, they have been following a wrong personnel policy, they have been promoting people who did not deserve any promotion, they have been demoting or denying promotion to people who deserve promotion, they have been destroying the morale of the scientists, they have been inducting people who did not deserve to be inducted through all kinds of favouritism. I hope that that era is over and they will be able to take some steps of rectification now.

There have been singular failures one of

them is MBT. And we have given reports from the public Accounts Committee regarding the MBT their failure to develop it. In every DRDO project in the Eighties, what was happening was that they would give an estimate for money and time and when the time may be three years or four years is going to expire, they will come for further extension of time and further funds. It happens in respect of every project and they say, we are monitoring. When we asked for the monitoring details, we found that not even once a year the Monitoring Committee sits and what they discuss is not recorded. That is the kind of monitoring that was going on.

Sir, there is an apprehension, as has been expressed already here and also outside the Parliament, that the Defence Budget is not being increased and that is going against the needs of modernisation of the Army. It may be so, but it is not that modernisation has stopped because of that. On the other hand, the fact is that large increases are not being given to the Defence budget as was being given in 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988. In these four years the Budget has gone up from Rs. 3000 crores. In 1984 it was Rs. 3000 crores to more than Rs. 1000 crores. So that rapid increase has stopped now. But what has happened is, because of the financial crunch which is common with other Departments of the Government of India, it has to face, it has started thinking how to make savings, and it has made savings as Mr. Yadav said that it made a saving of, as we understand, about a thousand crores of rupees. Very good, but more can be done. In fact, Mr. Jaswant Singh mentioned the report of the Arun Singh Committee which was constituted in 1990 and gave its report in January 1991 and made several recommendations. In fact, I understand, it is quite a voluminous report, it is in six volumes, and some of the recommendations may have been implemented, which have made a saving of thousand crores of rupees and quite a lot of the recommendations are still to be implemented. If they are implemented, I am sure that further savings of Rs. 1000 crores or Rs. 2000 crores can be made. This is essential. In a country like India, we

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cannot afford the luxury of having for Defence, the same kind of set up as we used to have earlier which, to us, is a gift from the British days. That cannot be done. One has to be always tightening the belt. That is one thing and the type of thing which had not been done earlier has been done now, subsequent to the report, may be irrespective of the Report, I do not know, as they were using Sir, just an example, Nissan Jongs which go only 4 kilometres for a liter of petrol. They have now replaced them by Maruti Jipsies, whose consumption is one litre for 12 kilometres. So it is three times. Similar is the case with other vehicles. If they do like this, I venture to think that a lot of savings can be made and in many other direction they can be made. One good thing I find is that even the diet has caught their attention. Because of the increase in food prices, they have now to give a balanced diet to the Jawans and Officers. And that is a very good thing. I learnt long ago that in Britain, during the Second World War, because of the food crisis there, they had gone on rationing food for their people. In fact, they were forced to give balanced food to their citizens, which improved the health of the recruits. Between 1939 and 1945, the height of the young recruits in the British Army had become taller by two inches because of the balanced food. I am sure, if we continue the balanced food here also, it will improve the health of the young people on the defence forces.

Now, we have to understand the nature of warfare and the nature of war that we have to face now and possibly we have to face that for all times to come. It is no longer a war of high technology only. It is also a low cost war, low intensity war which we have to fight and we have to arm ourselves accordingly. Have we armed ourselves for that? I see no reference to that in this report that we have been getting ourselves ready to fight that kind of war. For that, similarly in the sea, we have to prepare ourselves. We will have to depend more on the Coast Guard because of the kind of dangers that we have to avert. The latest danger that we have seen is the entry into

our country the high potential explosives like RDX etc. This has come not through ordinary ports, but through unauthorized vessels which have landed in remote parts of the coastal line. This can be guarded only by the Coast Guard. Are we giving that emphasis to the Coast Guard or are we following the plan which we have chalked out five years ago? We are not changing according to the needs that are arising now. We are still going to build big ships for the Navy to give further impetus to Pakistan to go and acquire such ships, whereas we should be spending that money on a number of vessels for Coast Guard. That is why, I say that the direction of the Armed Forces should change. It is not changing.

On the other hand, we have given some emphasis to our Air Force and therefore, out of the total expenditure of our Defence Forces, about 25 or 26 per cent goes to the Air Force, but still it is less than what goes to the Army. In 1991, we have witnessed the war between Iraq and the United States leading allied forces. That was an electronic war. What lessons have we taken from that war? The command control system was not located in the place of the war station. I am told, the command control system was in Washington, was in the Pentagon headquarters. When the Skud missiles were launched the sensors sensed and told them that they had been launched in one particular direction. Then the intimation was sent to America. It was processed there and the command came directly to the patriot missile as to in which direction it has to be launched and how it has to be launched. This is what today's warfare has become and what have we done to progress in that direction? I am not saying we shall attain that level immediately. But we must make an effort and we must change our direction. Then, coupled with that idea, there should not be a very large standing Army. Then, you get into the whole matter of Army. The figure must be secret. But I am told about 13 lakh people are in the Army. Out of that about 35 per cent or so are non-combatant. We do not need that many. We have a tradition of keeping standing Army because the Britishers did it was convenient for them to have standing Army in

India which they could use without the permission and knowledge of their own Parliament. That is why, they had a large standing Army in India and very small standing Army in Britain. With large reservists. All European countries have small standing armies with a big reserve.

We have a system here of Territorial Army. In those days when the Army strength might be not even one lakh, the Territorial Army was fixed at one lakh. Now the standing Army strength has gone up to 13 lakh and the Territorial Army strength has gone down to 40,000. So, we have not understood how to make the savings. We have got flabby Army. So, it gives us another opportunity, if we have a reserve Army by which we take in new recruits every year, train them for a year or two and after that, they go out to pursue some avocation in life. They remain attached as reservists of the Army for the next five or 10 years. What I am suggesting is, if that happens, we will have disciplined citizens who go through Army training for one or two years and then pursue their avocation of life. They become disciplined force. That will have qualitatively different kind of effect on their fellow-citizens. We have not been doing that. That is why, you find in Europe, most of them are in the reservists category. I do not say that in India everybody should be a reservist. But every year, you take 30,000 people here in the standing Army and discard them at the end of 17 years of their service. After 17 years of service in the Army, are they not fit for any service on the civilian side, excepting security guards, if they are not trained in any other trade in the Army. Otherwise, finding jobs for such a large number of ex-Army personnel is a headache. You can find a solution to this. At the age of 18 or 19 or 20 years, you recruit people and give them training for two years. If they are trained along with a craft, they will be an asset to the society, after their two years of training, when they go out they can get jobs on the civilian side. In the present system, you recruit people in the Army and they remain till the age of 38 to 40 years. When he goes to the field after 35 years of age, how can he take arduous task which a boy of 18 years or 20 years can take? I think, the

Army can be made younger and the Army can be made more dynamic with the reservists.

The question is, whether we can call the reservists quickly. Today with the facility of telecommunication, you can call them at a very short notice. You can try it. You have to change the system. If you send a letter by post, it will take 15 days to reach. That is not the way. You can do it, if you have the will. For survival, you have to do it.

I recommend to the Government that you have to think about it very seriously to have a small standing Army with large reservists. The reservists can be trained for one or two years and then they can be sent out to have their jobs. That will have a disciplined citizenry. Perhaps some of the criminal activities can be thereby curbed.

In the Defence, a new direction is necessary. It is not only because of the changed situation in the world not only in the changed situation regarding the availability of and cost of armaments and the new power balance of the world but also the position in which India is placed today economically. I would urge the Government to start re-thinking now and bring about maximum amount of economy that is possible.

I am quite convinced because of the discussion that we had in the Defence Standing Committee of the Defence Ministry, that it is possible to make more economies by rationalising the systems.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN (Jhunjunu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I take the opportunity to extend my congratulations to the army of our nation through this House. We are much proud of our army and its role in protecting our motherland. We are participating in the discussion on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence. In the Demands for grants, my colleague has mentioned Vijyanta tank and



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have asked for certain information. I would appeal that the documents given by our Ministry are more than sufficient as Defence is a subject which requires to be dealt with in a secret manner. Being a very sensitive issue we should not disclose the information which can be misused by others. The people, who are in this field, know about the equipments they have and how to use them. It is something very strange that the people who have been to war fronts or even not have seen ships, aircrafts and tanks are directing us as to how we should lead our army and what equipments do we need.

It takes at least ten to eleven years time to develop a tank as it requires a lot of hard work. No country in the world have developed tank in less period. We are proud of our Arjun tank which is the pride of our nation. We extend our heartiest felicitations to the officials of D.R.D.O. and Ministry to produce such a fine tank. It has been tested successfully. This is one of the best tanks in the world. We fully rely on it. I would appeal, through you and this House, that its production should be started immediately and the same should be handed over to the army at an early date. If there are any minor shortcomings like firing control etc. These can be removed later on but its production should be launched immediately and it should very soon be handed over to the army.

T-72 Russian tank also figures among the tanks which we produce. we had an agreement with the then U.S.S.R. not to make any modification in this tank. But today the situation has changed and while producing it as per the need of our country, if it requires to make any modification then we must go for it, so that, these tanks can also match our Arjuna tank. Vijayanta tank is an idigenously produced tank but its suspension is a bit weak and needs improvement. I have every hope that we will be able to improve it.

Ours is a very vast country. At present we do

not have tanks in sufficient numbers to cater the need of our vast borders. In order to protect our country we need an armed regiment but we do not have one at present. The reason stated for this is paucity of funds. I would appeal the House that nothing can be more important than the security of the country. We have born here, therefore Members of Parliament should donate their one month salary for defence budget during this budget as a token so that people get inspiration. The amount provided for defence in this budget is very nominal. Therefore I appeal the Defence Minister as well as the Prime Minister that we should increase this amount in order to meet our defence requirements so that we will be able to buy tanks and equipments for Navy and Airforce to protect our borders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I happened to meet the three chiefs of the forces in connection with defence requirement, I asked them whether they were satisfied with the provisions made in our defence budget they could not say anything as they have a good many requirements and infact these requirements belong to our nation. If we are unable to meet the requirement of our nation then it is we who are at fault. We should not let the back of finance or anything obstruct the fulfilment of our requirements. We are well capable of answering anybody's challenge and if we do not answer a challenge posed by a small country then it is very shameful for us. We should prepare our defence budget in such a manner that even a bigger nation cannot dare to attack us. She will have to think a hundred times before attacking us and this is only possible if we prepare our defence in a perfect manner. But it will require an increase in our defence budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will have to strengthen our armed regiment. More tanks should be produced and number of such units should be raised. One may find that we even talk small items of our requirement. In order to boost up the morale of our jawans we will have to provide them more facilities like fire proof dangare so that if the tank catches fire he can save himself. Gun cleaning is being done by using

ash. Now it can be replaced by the latest technology. We can replace the brass back of the ammunition with a plastic one. We can go for a technique which can done away with the tiresome job of loading and unloading ammunition so that our jawans can fire more easily and more efficiently.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have tank regiment fleet, for which Railway is to play a vital role for transportation. A provision for special class of M.B.F.U. should be made so that tanks can climb or ascend easily on it. Better bogies for the crews should be provided so that they can perform their train journey with comfort. This is a genuine demand of jawans. The Government should meet this demand.

So far as the question of recruitment is concerned, the creamy layer do not prefer to join army rather they want to join civil services. I would appeal you that this creamy layer should be encouraged to become army officers. But this is possible only when they are guided by such feeling but it is happening the other way round. We should inculcate such feeling that India is our motherland and every Indian has a duty to protect it and this he can do by joining army and for this we will have to implement compulsory military service. All the persons of 18 year's age should be imparted training and during such training as per the ability of the individuals they should be sent either to military or to the civil side. If we are able to do like this then we can give a strong army to the nation. Off and on you must have come across to the news of accidents of fighter aircrafts. The reason cannot be other than that of mistakes committed by the pilots. If we do not provide a better army such accidents will keep on raising. We cannot afford such national wastage. Any individual is not to be blamed for it as our selection is not fare. If a jawan gets recruited after paying a bribe of Rupees twenty thousand then how can he serve his country? Corruptions persists in our recruitment process. If we are unable to remove it then how can we make our army a strong one? I would ask you to implement it strictly. Such a procedure be

evolved that recruitment to the Armed forces is made without any consideration. Recruitments should be made according to the physical fitness of the candidates. We should keep our soldiers in high esteem who serve our mother land and they are the pride of our nation.

Recently, some increase has been made in the pension but awardees have not been included in it. We should have a very high regard for the awardnes and their widows who have made great sacrifices for the nation otherwise who would like to go to guard our check posts at the peak of Siachin. There is no one to see him whether he is performing his duty honestly or not. Only his God and his motherland can see as to how he is guarding our borders. He thinks that a slightest negligence on his part will not be forgiven by his God and his motherland. He is a soldier of this country. If we cannot maintain his dignity how we can pay respect to him. I would like to say that we should respect our soldiers. The Government should prepare the Budget after consulting the Chiefs of all the three forces about their requirements. If a small country like Pakistan, I am calling Pakistan a small country because it is too small as compared to India, dare to attack us, I am confident that Pakistan will be eliminated from the world map. I believe that ours is such a vast country that thousands of countries like Pakistan can do no harm to us but that will be possible only when we set aside our petty differences. We bind ourselves to the petty considerations like castensm. We have to rise above such petty considerations only then we can produce good soldiers for our Armed forces and can have respect for them. The Government should consult Army officers regarding their requirements from country's security point of view as to how many guns, submarines, ships, aircrafts, tanks and other weapons are required for them. You will be amazed that we are still using pistols given to us by the Britishers during Second World War. Why we cannot provide those weapons to our soldiers which are being used by the terrorists? We should provide most sophisticated weapons to our soldiers to defend our borders. If we provide

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

modern weapons to the soldiers, take care of their welfare and give them attractive salaries we will have also good results from them. /

I would like to appeal the Government to have second look on the Budget allocation because the allocation made in the Budget is not sufficient.

Now I would like to make submission about the food being provided and supply made to our Jawans. We invite tenders for the supply of ration. I think Major General Khandun can throw light on it in a better way because this work is done by the ASC and Ordinance corps. The contracts are awarded for the supply of best quality of ration but I regret to say that poor and sub-standard quality of ration is supplied to our Army Jawans. I would demand that best quality fo ration should be supplied to the Jawans and the dishonest persons whoseever may be should not be spared and be given exemplary punishment. If we make cut in the ration of our Jawan or do any dishonesty in suppling ration, how we can defend our country. Sir, I also would like to demand through you that there should be one scale of ration to the officers as well as to the Jawans. If we are able to do that, that will be a remarkable achievement on our part.

In the end I would like to say something about our ex-servicemen. They have been demanding same rank same pension since quite a long time but I regret to say that till now we are not able to give same rank same pension to our ex-servicemen on whom we should be proud of and should have great respect for them. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was in the Army I had some Senior officers who also met me here. I had great regard for them but when they came to me and talked to me for half an hour about their problems, the regard which I had for them washed away. Why did it happen because of their helplessness. They are not finding anything to do after retirement and are not able to adjust themselves. Are we able to adjust our ex-servicemen so that they may not choose a wrong path and may be able

to look after their children properly. It should be the responsibility of the Government to provide a parallel job to the ex-servicemen. If a soldier retires from the Army he should be given job in civil, police force or in BSF so that he may continue his job upto the age of 58 years.. Army service is an active service and the Jawan is retired at the age of 35 or 40 so how he will lead rest of his life. If we provided him parallel service he will have a hope that after retirement he will be given other job. Then he will not think of going on a wrong path. Wrong path is not chosen by every one but when any one does so he does so under some compulsion. Suppose there is a widow and we do not help her or provide assistance to her, from where she will earn her livelihood?

Therefore, I would like to demand that besides providing same rank same pension to the ex-servicemen, the Central Government should talk to the State Government for extending all cooperation in providing re-employment to the ex-servicemen as per the quota and that should done without any corruption.

One more point I would like to submit, through you, that a now a days our Army is not given sufficient time for its exercises and trainings. Earlier two to three months trainings and exercises were undertaken by the Army but now due to financial constraints we are not able to provide sufficient training to our Army. If the Army does not undertake exercises or trainings it would become an idle Army and would not be able to perform its duty. Army should always be ready to defend our long borders from East to West and from North to South. And that will be possible only if we provide them sufficient training and other training equipments. That can be done only when we provide sufficient Budget to them and does not say that due to financial constraint, so and so training or exercise cannot be undertaken. In the modern time, it does not behove us to say like that.

In the end I would like say one thing that being Members of Parliament we should give such a signal to the people of our country that we all have

to come forward unitedly to fight against the danger that is looming large on our country and for that if we have to sacrifice our one time meal we will do that. If we have to sacrifice our one month's salary for the defence of our country we would certainly do that. We have to keep up the morale of our Armed forces. Their morale should always be high.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say one more point. Army should not be used for internal disturbances in the country but it should be used for defending the country only. The use of Army in place of Police force is not good and that demoralises our Army. We should have high regard for the Army.

Sir, all the officers particularly Abdul Kalam Sahab of DRDO of the Defence Ministry deserve congratulation for providing us a good missile. Defence Secretary and other officers have full knowledge about it. Shri Arsal Datta has informed us that the documents provided to us are not complete. In this regard I would like to say that the documents relating to defence should not be put up more than requirements because security of the country is involved in it. There is always apprehension to take undue advantage of those informations. Sir, in the end I would like to thank you for giving me time to express my views.

[*Translation*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you. At the outset I would like to correct Shri Ayub Khan that I am not from ASC but from crops of Engineers

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Defence Budget with a continued sense of sadness, dismay and amazement. This Government is now presenting the third Defence Budget. In this fast changing international, Political, geo-political scenario, I thought that this Government and the Ministry of Defence

would also awaken from slumber. Regrettably, nothing seems to have changed; and if at all there is any change, it is only for the worse. The Government and the Ministry of Defence seems to have been truly and completely overtaken by inertia and inefficiency. These people have become the champions of status quo ante.

During the last few years, there have been tremendous international changes; and one had expected that this Government which has now been there for about two years, presenting the third Budget would show some different directions in the Defence Budget, in the interest of the national security. One expected that some fresh, something new, ideas would come out. But, what we have here now is a routine, mundane document being produced which has no credibility and it is just an ordinary babu's budget.

My senior colleague Shri Jaswant Singh has given the salient issues and major points. I will not repeat those; but I will touch upon some issues which according to me are crying for attention.

Let me briefly just recapitulate the type of burden that armed forces are today facing or having. We have a land border of 16,500 kilometres long, out of which 7,000 kilometres are with Pakistan and China. We have a coastline of 7600 kms. We have an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 25 lakh square kms. In addition we have off shore island and hydrocarbon installation totalling to approximately 500. Pakistan continues to occupy the so called 'Asad Kashmir'; having given 10,000 square kms as a gift to China. China occupies about 38,000 sq. km. of our country and claiming another 90,000 km. China is already a major nuclear power. Pakistan has already acquired the capability of nuclear delivery. In addition, Sir, Pakistan has I should say efficiently and capably involved our country in a proxy war. In this low intensive battle which they have been waging for many years now has kept not only the armed forces but even the country tied down in a situation where they

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have to pay almost no price and this country has to continuously pay a very heavy price. I said efficiently, because from their point of view it may be very good situation but from our point of view particularly from the point of view of our armed forces, it is very difficult and sad state.

Added to this gentlemen, is the perpetual misuse of the army and the armed forces. I can understand the occasions which would demand this but today we have got into the habit of calling the armed forces, particularly the army on the slightest pretext. It has become just like a fire brigade; not even a fire brigade but like a taxi. You just whistle across and send it wherever you want. This tendency has completely destroyed and is destroying the armed forces, particularly the army and it needs serious addition. Every speaker has highlighted this problem and yet this goes on. I would like to know why there is no check on this; why there is no thinking with regard to this. I can understand that for some reasons of national security army is to be deployed but why army is continuously deployed for flood relief? Why after 45-46 years of independence army is called for flood relief measures every year? Why do not the State Government gets geared up for their own flood relief measures. This can be easily done by the States but because of the indifferent attitude of the Government and the Ministry of Defence we find that army is being sent to the troubled spot. Nobody has ever bothered to see this. I suggest that the time has come; rather we are already late, and unless we tackle this problem our army is going to be destroyed.

Having told you about the type of responsibility, the type of burden that this country has given to our armed forces let me also tell you that we have a very fine set of armed forces. They will rise to the occasion. They have done so in the past. There is no need to worry. They are a fine set of people. In spite of the organisational hurdles which are put in their way, they have delivered the goods. I repeat that this is not because of the

support that the Government has given or the bureaucracy has given that they have delivered the goods. I assure you that they will deliver the goods. But that is no consolation. We should be perturbed that here is an organisation which given proper respect and proper support would be the best fighting machine in the world yet we are not utilising this in-built strength.

What is the response of the Government or the response of MOD to the responsibility which has been given to the armed forces? What is their contribution? Should their contribution not be to see that their problems get sorted out? What is their contribution? I will illustrate this point by giving a few examples.

The attitude of the Government towards the armed forces is very peculiar. As I said, this is the third Budget. The second Budget for period ended on 31st March this year. The Budget was not to be allowed to be discussed in this House. At best of time the defence Budget has been made a holy cow. All these years on the pretext of secrecy almost nothing is given. My friend, Shri Ayub Khan said that so many documents have been given. I entirely disagree with him. There is nothing that is not known to outside people which is being supplied here. We are trying to fool this country by invoking the clause of secrecy. There are certain issues which are secret, and they need not be told. No citizen would even ask them. But today on the pretext of secrecy the Defence Budget does not get discussed properly. Last year it was guillotined. This Government has created a dubious history, an example which will probably be mis-utilised in future. Almost 13 per cent of the Budget, which is almost equal to total plan outlay, that is Rs. 17,500 crores of rupees was not allowed to be discussed. For what reason, God knows. On the first Budget presented by the Government, I had the honour of opening the Defence Budget. I was new to Parliament. I did not know much about delivering the speech at that time. But since I was given this responsibility, I worked hard, I toiled hard to get all the details, and tried to bring as much strength as possible by various

suggestions. I did that. What did this Government do? Gentlemen, not a word on anything has been done to suggestions made in that speech. This is the type of response that had been given to the opening speech delivered on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry. No responsible official from the Ministry or the Minister mentioned whether these suggestions are relevant or not or not agreed. They just put it in the file and dumped it in the waste paper basket. We do not make political speeches. We make speeches which sincerely one feels towards betterment of the nation and nation's security. We do not make vote bank speeches. At least I cannot. What is the response? Why is this sort of indifferent attitude? Gentlemen, this reflects the attitude of the Government towards defence.

My next point is about the post of the Defence Minister. In the initial stages, for some time we did not have the Defence Minister. Now, again we have no Defence Minister. For solving the internal party bickerings, and problems, you had just moved the Defence Minister overnight. The Defence is not the subject where you can have passengers coming and going. It takes time for people to settle down. Shri Pawar had hardly settled down when the Party necessity moved him. I request the Prime Minister to have a proper Defence Minister, who last long here at least as long as your Government lasts. This post is not to be pushed around like this. Please give it due sanctity.

Now I come to the document produced yearly by the Ministry of Defence i.e. the Annual Report. When we had discussed the first Report, some comments were made. Well, Gentlemen, one expected this document to be enumerating important policies, lessons learnt during last year; achievements; mistake made; what we are we going to do for the future; an enlightened perception of events that had taken place around the world and in the country. What do we have? It is a classical document and extracted from Reports, by a Babu. I would like to give a few examples. Except jingoistic jargonism, this book does not contain any information, which

you cannot get in a third rate magazine outside. I will give you the examples of how jingoism has been tried out. I quote from the first page:

"For the first time in nearly half a century, the emerging international political architecture has provided some opportunities to bring about fundamental changes in the global security calculus."

Now, you are talking of political architecture. We are talking of security calculus. For Heaven sake, talk about security, not on jingoism. What does it convey? It conveys nothing. The people who really read this book are not going to be impressed by this. I am really sorry to say this.

In page 7 of the book, it is said:

"Taking advantage of the opportunities thrown up by the end of the Cold War, we have pursued, with renewed vigour, our policy of improving and strengthening our relations both with our neighbours and countries outside our region.."

Gentlemen, it is very fine to talk about this. Are you boasting? What are our relations with our neighbouring countries? Are they better or worse? With which country, have you achieved? Every country today looks towards us with suspicion. No country is willing to help us when we are in need. And you talk this sort of self-praising jingoism. Now, there is one other point. Here it is said that the leasing of the Tin Bigha corridor was resolved. How? By giving it away, by just surrendering it. You take pride in that. If you have done this after achieving something, then I would have understood. What does this document say? Its say is:

"In regard to other bilateral issues, such as sharing of waters of common rivers between India and Bangladesh, illegal immigration, land boundary agreement 1974, etc. the ongoing dialogues are being pursued."

When it comes to our interest, you are pursuing, but, when it is coming to our country's

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interest, you are surrendering.

You are talking of illegal immigration. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh was here in Delhi. She said that not a single Bangladeshi is here and you are trying to take the credit for something which does not even exist.

This is another aspect of misrepresenting statistics. At page 17, you have said that the satisfaction level is for married accommodation 64 per cent for officers; 78 per cent for JCOs and 69 per cent for other ranks. You have very conveniently ignored that only 14 per cent of the soldiers are authorised for Government accommodation. I think this also includes those people who get a thing called CILQ that is the compensation in lieu of quarters. The soldiers are living in garages and servant quarters and jhuggis. As far as the officers are concerned, the waiting period in most places is 18 months to 24 months. In Delhi, where the tenure is 2.5 to 3 years, the accommodation is made available after two years when the officer is about to go. You claim credit for this. Why could not the Government say that we have acute shortage of money? We are not having money. We need so many thousand crores of rupees for accommodation. The Government should be frank about the problems rather than giving fictitious figures and claiming false achievements.

However, there is one good thing about the report—it truly reflects the thinking and working of the Ministry of Defence secrecy being misused to hide incompetence and waste high sounding platitudes with no substance to confuse and finally perfection in the "art of looking busy" lots and lots of inputs, tremendous amount of throughput and no output.

The tendency of "analysis to paralysis" had been mastered by the Ministry of Defence. I will give only one example to say how decisions are not being made in time. The Western Command,

which is the premier command of the Indian Army, did not have the Army commander when the previous incumbent retired. We knew about the retirement many years in advance and yet no planning or decision was taken to ensure that the new incumbent is posted in time.

Now, I come to the Budget. The declining trend in Defence Budget both in the GOP and in real terms is known to all. I will quote a few figures which are available with me relating to the defence expenditure in percentage of GDP. In 1987-88, it was 4.06 per cent. Every year it came down first to 3.79 per cent, then to 3.61 per cent and then to 3.33 per cent and finally in 1992-93, it was only 2.75 per cent. As compared to this, Pakistan's expenditure in 1992-93 was 7.14 per cent of the GDP.

In terms of real value also, the amount allotted to Defence has gone down considerably. It does not even cater for even inflation and increase in pay and DA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, we have five hours for this Debate on the Demands for Grants. We started at about 2.35 P.M. or so. It was our hope that we should be able to complete the debate today and have reply tomorrow. Otherwise, we still have further Demands for grants in queue, and we will run short of time because the guillotine has been fixed on the 3rd.

May I request that we sit upto 8 O'Clock and complete all the discussion today? I think we will be able to do it upto 8 o'clock and complete the discussion today and then have the reply first thing tomorrow morning. I hope the hon. Members would agree with me (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure



of the House that we shall sit upto 8 o' clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes,

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA  
(Mandsaur): You have proposed that the House should sit up to 8 o' clock. This will provide an opportunity to all the hon. Members to speak.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-  
MANGALAM: All right, let everyone put forth his view.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is agreed. Shri Kumaramangalam, are there any arrangements for dinner?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-  
MANGALAM: It is upto 8 o'clock initially. Then we will see. It may be that one or two speakers will be left out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Genl. Khanduri may continue.

18.00 Hrs.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA  
KHANDURI: Sir, I was talking about the Budget. I was saying that in real terms also, the Budget has gone down. I once again wish to emphasise the type of importance that is being given to Defence Budget. In Part-I of the Finance Minister's Budget speech which consists of 15 printed pages, how much has Defence got? It has got one sentence of two lines. That is all the Finance Minister had for Defence. What does he say? I quote:

"For Defence expenditure the provision has been increased from Rs. 17,500 crores in the current year to Rs. 19,180 crores next year".

There is no analysis and no necessity to tell

the nation as to what has been happening and why only this Rs. 19,180 crores. What is the logic behind this amount of money? Nobody feels the necessity of bothering over Defence. This is the type of perception and attitude this Government is having towards Defence. It is not going to take us far.

I understand, gentlemen, the paucity of funds. I am also one who is not a supporter of adding on to the Defence budget unnecessarily. I support the view that we have got better avenues for utilising our money. We have got the health problem; the education problem; the drinking water problem; roads etc. and a variety of problems which are there. But we also have to maintain a force. If we have to maintain a force, we have to maintain it in a fighting fit state.

I can understand the paucity of additional funds for the Defence. But there is another aspect. Whatever money we get, why can we not utilise it properly? Why can that money not be expended to the fullest possible by removing internal lacunae, red-tapism and various obstructions.

I will give a few illustrations. We have the famous Arun Singh Committee's report about which people have mentioned. Now I do not understand why this Government is trying to hide this report. I am told this report has given very useful suggestion for proper utilisation of finances within the services. I just do not understand what is the problem with this Government. You withhold on some other issue. But at least on financial aspects, recommendations can be brought in so that you could save money and proper utilisation can be done. There is no response for the last two years I have asked a number of times, in terms of parliamentary questions, as to what is happening. There is no response. Why is it so? We would like to know from this Government as to what is happening to Arun Singh Committee's report. Why it is not tabled? At least it could be placed on the table of the House. You can disagree with the Report. But then let us take a look at it. But

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I do not know for what reason it is kept a secret. Only this Government knows.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): You may use the Standing Committee of Parliament to extract this report.

MAJ GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I will advise because I am not in that Committee now. But the fact is why should we have to extract? Is it for any individual's benefit? Is it for B.J.P.'s benefit that I should extract it? Is this Government not interested in making rupee utilised for 100 paise? that is my query; that is my pain; that is my trouble.

I do not understand what is wrong. Why can we not at least come on to a common point on this issue where the nation is involved? I do not know what sort of politics is there.

Then there is the Estimates Committee Report. This committee consisted of Members of all parties. The last Report of the Committee had come, I think it is now about six months old. Very useful suggestions have been given in that Report. But we cannot even ask questions on that because the action Taken Report is yet to come. Why can't we extract useful ideas from that Estimates Committee's Report and start implementing them, I do not understand.

The other thing, I would like to tell is I wish Prime Minister had been here I would like to tell the hon. FRM that there are certain things which are causing us unnecessary escalation of costs and wastage of the Defence expenditure. I will give you one example.. Once the Budget is prepared, then the three Services are authorised to buy certain routine items such as items of foodgrains. Though the quantities are laid down and money is mentioned in the detailed Budget, yet every time for anything to be purchased very month or every time for anything to be purchased very month or every quarter, for six months they move on file. For example, hydrogenated oil was

to be bought at Rs. 25 a kilo. A file must be floated again and by that time some babu or some Desk Officer or some Under Secretary has raised 20 queries, it has gone up and down again, the price has shot up to Rs. 28 or Rs. 30 a kilo. Who is going to pay for the additional cost? Not that babu who had delayed, he has no accountability, he has only an authority. Ultimately what is happening? Such price escalation is taking place and eventually whatever little money you have for the modernisation or capital works, it is being diverted from there. I do not understand what the problem is in handing over this responsibility to the Chiefs. A Chief of the Army staff who handles 15 lakhs of people, thousands and thousand of crores of rupees equipment, cannot be depended upon to handle a few crores of rupee which have already been budgeted for an item for which the quantity is fixed. What sort of sadistic logic are you following? What sort of attitude are you developing? Is this not distressing to find that a Desk Officer or an Under Secretary has to monitor the activities of the Chief of the Army Staff? I don't understand why this sort of things are going on and on, and this is one of the things which again has been said in the Estimates Committee. They have said that an integrated financial system should go right down to the corps level. Why can't we introduce it? Why can't we give the responsibility to those people who are handling such things and make them accountable? If they make mistakes or they indulge in wrong activities, take action against them. But the national wealth is being wasted. The scarce Defence Budget is being misused at the whims and fancies of Desk Officers and Under Secretaries and nobody is bothered about it.

I would like to point out, Sir, that the money required for modernisation is becoming a very critical issue today in the services. That is becoming a question of life and death for the nation. The Army which is manpower intensive needs to be made a fire power and mobility oriented. The Army Aviation Corps still is in the same infant stage because there are no funds. In the Airforce all the Aircrafts have become old,

aged, they have to be replaced. AWACS to be introduced, the air defence has to be modernised. For Navy we have accepted, that it is to a Blue water Navy. But what have we done? Our two Aircraft carrier have become old. What is the Government thinking? Where is the money going to come from? We cannot collect all the money from outside; at least let us internally do some proper utilisation, evolve some idea whereby the same money will go in a longer way.

With this, I would like to make a few suggestions, nothing very original. But I would like to convey them from my side.

First of all, about this National Volunteer Service, I would like this Government to kindly think seriously. I would suggest that starting from the officers level, IAS, IPS, all class I officers should serve about five years in the Army. You can reduce the size of the Army, you can reduce them to the hard core and have a sort of Army which is needing short notice for mobilisation and to start with, we should go in for this officer class, from IAS, IPS, all Class I officers, give them a three to five-year period. It will not only reduce your financial burden, it will not only give you a standing Army for which you don't have to spend direct money, but it will also improve the character of this nation which is decaying very fast now. The same exercise should go down to the level of other ranks. I do not know what sort of problems are there. If there are any problems, at least let this be open to the public debate.

The Government should appoint a committee to go into this matter. But nobody want even to talk about it. This idea will not only give financial freedom but will also help you in improving the fast-deteriorating national discipline and character. The next thing I want to bring to the notice of the Government in the same context is the side-stepping of the service persons who retire from the Service. We train a person for about 20 years and when we send him home at the age of 30 or 35 years, till he dies doing nothing. They are well-trained and later they are

being allowed to decay and die. Not only that, over a period of time, they will also become a problem for the nation in terms of discipline and behaviour. Why can we not utilise this man power? I keep on saying this also, but nobody is willing to get this examined very seriously. Some people say, it will result in unemployment. But you can save so much money if you utilise this man power and you can create fresh avenues for much more employment. Therefore, this idea of utilisation of trained man power is in the interest of the nation. I do not know why such issues where we do not have to spend money, where we can improve the society and which will give better financial freedom are not being looked into very seriously. I would request the Government to take it very seriously and if required, let them get it examined and let there be a national debate so that the public can give their opinion on this issue. May be, after a detailed discussion this idea gets turned down for valid reasons. But let it be examined in detail once and let it not be left to a few people who have got probably vested interests. It is too big an issue to be left to anybody's personal interest to come in.

Now, I will come to a few specific point. The first points is about the National Security Council which was raised with great fanfare in 1990. Where is it now? Today, people talk of security problems and various other issues. This National Security Council was conceived and raised and now it is being allowed to wither away. Why is the Government doing like this? If you do not like it, disband it. Recently I asked a question on this and I was trying to elicit some information from the Government about this organisation. For a question of three-fourth of a page, as usual the reply was 'Yes, Sir,' 'No, Sir' and 'Not applicable' and then the matter was closed. Why are you not allowing it to function? You tell me that the Council has met only once after 5th October, 1990. During the last three and a half years, it has met only once. What is it meant for? Is it meant only for decoration? It should have been an active organisation in forming the national policy. It should have been activated vigorously.

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Then, Sir, about Arun Singh Committee Report, I have already spoken and I would certainly like to know what the Government is thinking about it. Next about the OTI one time increase we know under what circumstances the Government was compelled to make the promise of 'one rank-one pension'. Having made that promise, that promise has not been kept up by the Government. A report weighing about five kilograms has been produced, but there is nothing in it. A large number of people have been left out some of which probably deliberately and it is a most unfair report and most unfair dealing with the Ex-Servicemen. I had requested earlier that the Committee of Secretaries should come out with its report. At least please let us know what they are giving or not giving.

A large number of people have been removed. One of the most ridiculous thing is the concept that if a man gets the second pension, he is not to be included. For second re-employment, OTI is not to be given. One can understand if the man has served up to 58 years and after that you do not give him the second OTI. But if the man serves only for four months or six months, they have got no benefit from the second employment even then, they have been removed from the list. What sort of report is this? What sort of thinking this Government is having? It is such a gross blatant injustice to the services. Why are you taking months and months to correct the injustice?

I am sincerely telling you, not to find fault with anybody but there is tremendous amount of discontentment. You keep on getting letters. I keep on sending them to you. It is not only creating discontentment amongst ex-servicemen but also amongst our servicemen who feel that they are very unfairly dealt with. It is all through passing on to the soldiers who feel if this is the way the ex-servicemen are being treated, tomorrow we will also become ex-servicemen and the same treatment will be given to us. This is a very wrong signal and message that is going. I sincerely request you kindly to get

this corrected.

Next point is, man management. This is a critical issue. There has been tremendous upheaval in our society both in terms of discipline, value system and things like that. Discipline has gone down. Individual demands have increased. Creature comforts have become more paramount. Yet services are subjected to certain rules and regulations in terms of restricting their freedom which are probably pre-1947, something based on 1935 Queen's regulations. I would suggest, let us take a realistic view of the present environment and then let us evolve some sort of guidelines, rules and regulations which will be easy to follow. Let us not play an ostrich that you put your head in sand hoping that things will be all right. It is correct that services should not be politicised. But at the same time, you cannot go to the other extreme for example to which people who are voting and you cannot hear the politicians. You cannot do this. You are putting impractical restrictions. My suggestion is, kindly have a look at it. Examine these things and let us not be guided by the British-time rules and regulations. Next point is a very sad thing is, a very large number of men and army officers are going to court. We need to examine why this is happening. Again, in reply to parliamentary question we are told: "We are looking into it. We are doing it; it is not very bad." I think, the situation is bad. Today the situation has come where second highest rank in the Services, Lt. General has to go to the court. What sort of organisation are you running? He is only next to the Chief of Army Staff. If he has to go to court, there is a valid reason, why he is going. After all, with 30 years or 35 years of service, Officers do not get into this kind of thing lightly. Is the system forcing them to resort to such indiscipline activities? Is there scope for improvement? I think, it should be done sincerely, not by the same people who are sitting on judgment. Let some independent people carry out some enquiry and let us see how we can improve the system.

The idea is not to bring in indiscipline but at

the same time, not to bring such discipline which is not workable.

I would quickly enumerate a problem regarding soldier being boarded and on medical grounds. If a man puts in 10 or 15 or 20 years of service and even at the end of during this period, he is found to be medically unfit, what happens? We recruit a man at the young age, at the age of 16-17 years. Having used, misused and abused him for 18 years or 20 years, then this Government tells him, your illness is not attributable to military service. It is very unfair. Unless illness is self-inflicted, unless it is caused by drinking, drugging or some such things it has to be attributable. We know the type of life, the service people, particularly the Army people are put in. You keep them in Siachen. When they come here with some sickness, you say, it is not attributable to military service. It is very unfair. Kindly look into this. Though it does not cost much money to the Government, it certainly causes a great deal of ill-will.

There is the other very interesting thing. I do not know you people are aware of it or how many people sitting on the distinguished box are aware of it. There is a Medical Board of Army Medical Corps. When a service person is medically boarded out, Medical experts go through it and give a certificate for disability. In this Army of ours, having been given this certificate by the Medical Board, of say 60 per cent disability, some Babu sitting in CDA (pension), Allahabad had the arbitrary authority of making it to even zero per cent. When I asked this question in terms of a letter, I was told it is under rules. When the Medical Board has given you this certificate, which Babu has got the authority to over-rule this Medical Board? Next ex-servicemen are entitled to certain facilities, but they are not being given those facilities.

One example is about medical. This point was also discussed in the other forum. The medical facilities today to ex-servicemen are virtually zero. Today no additional facility is being given in the Army Medical Corps either to

officers or to staff or even in terms of medicine. I, being a Major General, when I went for medicine after retirement, I was told "Sorry. I have no medicine because no medicine is catered for retired officers." And yet I am supposed to get free medical aid after my retirement. Why this sort of thing? Why cannot Government take responsibility of this? There are many lacuna in the Medical cover.

Similarly, they hardly get the reservation in State Service.

Canteen facilities are supposed to be given, but Government takes no responsibility to give any canteen support. If it is available, you go and take it from the available shop. But Government is not going to take any trouble. If you do not want to give them, they do not have the entitlement.

As I said earlier, such activities are creating discontent among service people because they do not know where they can go.

The last point is, in NDA there is a case of a boy missing. He was the son of a poor soldier, sent there to become an Officer. His son is missing from May 11, 1992. Till today, almost a year, there is no trace. At that level, why cannot a CBI inquiry be ordered? His father is a poor soldier. He has even identified one or two people, among the cadets. For one year, this man, this poor soldier has not been able to trace his son.

In my last speech in the debate, I had spoken at length on the Defence Research Development Organisation. There were many grey areas, many lacuna and many problem areas in this. I would not like to repeat this. As I said in the beginning, the Defence Ministry did not care to go through them. They may not care to read it now also. But there is a requirement to identify certain areas of expenditure and identify certain issues which are causing great problem to the organisation.

I started by saying that for certain development, we need more money. But, at the

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to that extent.

same time, we have to ensure that this money is being used properly. There is an impression that a lot of money is being used in the name of secrecy and is not being spent properly. This aspect has to be gone into. But what causes more concern to me is that there are almost 100 per cent time and cost over-runs in the projects. As I said earlier, DRDO alone is not responsible. To some extent, even the Services are responsible. I suggested to the Scientific Officer. He is taking action on it. But I want to put it to you that there must be a system evolved whereby we can have certain norms and guidance and parameters. We should not keep on changing as the project progresses.

A project which is suppose to be completed within three years takes ten years because of the changes in progress of the project. I am happy to say that the new Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister has done a lot of work on this and I hope that the time and cost runs over-runs would be controlled very shortly. But I think this also needs to be noted at the Ministry level.

I do not think there is much happiness in the Defence Budget that you have produced.

I, therefore, cannot support it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI  
MALLIKARJUN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while the hon. Prime Minister will address the macro issues concerning the country's security environment and matters of basic policy related to Defence, I would like to briefly highlight some of the challenges which we are facing today.

I have carefully heard the observations made by the hon. Members. They are all quite valid. Some of them are valid in the midst of invaliding or invalidity in the midst of validity. But one common point of appreciation of the role played by our Armed Forces is a common factor of appreciation of that reality. I congratulate them

While initiating the debate, the hon. Member, a well-personified personality in matters of Defence and of course in all other matters, with his rationale, wisdom has, at the beginning revealed that India has no Defence policy. Here, I do not agree. Of course, the Defence Policy which is in the mind of the personified personality might be different. But as a democratic India, we have a Defence Policy. Because of the Policy, today we are able to maintain our territorial integrity and sovereignty. In fact, we salute our Armed Forces who are certainly working in odd situations with great patriotism and professionalism. Of course, this is not a large complicated matter I mean the Defence Policy. Defending the country is the basic policy. While defending the country, what are the requirements we need?

We need to incalculate the required morale among the Armed Forces who rise up to the occasion. At the same time, today, the Armed Forces, as has been rightly mentioned by the hon. Members, are doing civilian job also. When ever natural calamities and untoward incidents happen, they are being deployed for the maintenance of internal security and to meet the natural calamities and so on and so forth. However, the basic point remains when we are now deviating from the cold-war scenario. How to build our Defence? We have deviated from the cold-war scenario. But the position of our neighbouring countries in relation to India is vital for us to think about it. Constant attempts have been made on the part of India that relationship with our neighbouring countries would be normalised. No doubt, the hon. Member, our senior Member of Parliament Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav referred to China.

There is certainly a positive development in Indo-Sino relationship after the visits of our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister from China having a Indo-Sino Joint Commission to deal with the border dispute. some development is there which is quite satisfactory either with Sn

Lanka or with Bangladesh. No doubt, my learned friend hon. Major General Khanduri has mentioned about Tin Bigha. But how is that we will accept the reality when we are pursuing the other issues? Sometimes in a country to country relationship, we have to take the cognisance of certain inherent factors of reality. We have solved them with mutual consent. Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav has also mentioned about Panchasheel. If I recollect correctly, in 1955, after the Bandung Conference, Mr. Chau-en-lai, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru enunciated this Panchasheel, fully accepted it, for mutual respect, for each other's territorial integrity, sovereignty, mutual friendship, peaceful co-existence, non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Apart from having been adhered to the Panchasheel, we had a bad experience of 1962 war. That is how, probably, after emancipation whatever resources were there at our disposal, defence has never been neglected. It has been given its due importance and after that, of course, we certainly realised that our defence preparedness needs much more attention and also much more modernisation. According to the advancement of science and technology, the advantage of it should be used. That is how we have come into production units. I will deal with that later.

But so far as the main point of defence expenditure is concerned, defence needs are concerned, we all agree and every hon. Member including Shri Jaswant Singh has made an emphasis that defence Budget must be increased so that whatever projects are there in the pipeline, they will get a proper share. Unfortunately, because of this resource crunch, defence of the country has become more complex than ever before. With the firm conviction of the people of this country and the elected representatives. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, he has said that there was resource crunch. Are we not

capable of even defending our country? *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRIMALLIKARJUN: I do not know whether he is able to understand me, whether the translator has properly translated it or not. I am astonished the way my hon. friend is asking a question in ignorance/ This is a major factor. so far as the main emphasis is concerned it is about how to reduce the wasteful expenditure when there is a resource crunch, how to utilise better the available assets and how to make a manpower planning. These are all factors on which we are concentrating - manpower planning, better utilisation of our assets.

They are concentrating on the reduction in wasteful expenditure and about cost control also. As a result of that, in the three Armed Forces, that is, Army, Navy and Air Force, we could achieve something and could save money in crores. This is how we have to utilise this. Apart from that, we are trying to get rid of absolute assets, surplus stores and inventory control. These are all various things and by properly attending to them, we will be able to save a few hundreds of crores. It will be vital for us in the light of resource crunch and also in order to give strength to the Armed Forces on the one side and to give strength to the Defence Research and Development Organisation and also to the defence production units.

A number of measures have been initiated in the Army to secure visible economy and generate resources for financing critical maintenance and modernisation. For example, take the case of consumption of petroleum products. This has been reduced. Temporary duty moves have been restricted. Action has been initiated to dispose of obsolete and surplus stores. Simulators have been introduced to see that the training is properly done. There will not be much wastage on the training. Now, I will come to the question of fuel efficiency vehicles. I have just forgotten one of the points which the



hon. members have mentioned. It is about the Nishan and Zongra vehicles. These are being produced in our own defence factories at Jabalpur. But, today, fuel consumption is so high, we are not able to afford even Shaktiman vehicles. It has a capacity to produce four thousand vehicles. But, we have to go in for some modernised new technology so that we can have a fuel efficiency vehicles. For that, we are trying to see as to how best we could achieve that.

Sir, our ordnance depots and storage points, they have been modernised. These are all the measures which are being taken to control the expenditure, in order to save it so that it can be utilised for a constructive and a better purpose. In so far as the Air Force is concerned, because of their manpower planning. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when hon. Minister is sleeping like this in the House then what will be the fate of our queens? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is deeply thinking about the Defence Budget.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as Air Force is concerned, because of their manpower planning, they were able to save nearly Rs. 40 crore. Of course, whatever be the level force that we have, we all believe that our defence preparedness is such that we will face any eventuality. There is no doubt in that. But it does not mean that we should not equip properly our Armed Forces. So far as Air Force is concerned, Shri Jaswant Singh was mentioning about the Russian collaboration in production and other things. It is true that after the disintegration of the U.S.S.R., and emergence of the Russian federation, we had certain problems in the supply of spares. Production support has been very

much upset. And, of course, sometimes, such things happen in a country.

So, we cannot go by it. But still we have firm faith; we will certainly be able to take the needful things. When President Yeltsin has visited, these things have been sorted out, as you are all conscious of.

If you come to Navy, we do require much more sophistication, much more modernisation, in spite of our indigenous production. For example, all our shipyards units, whether Goa shipyard or Mazagoan Dock or Calcutta Shipyard, are producing, manufacturing our own indigenous ships which are going to be quite sophisticated. They are producing frigates, corvettes and all types of things; in fact, we should congratulate our production units for producing indigenous submarines also. Already one has been commissioned and the other is going to be commissioned.

One of our friends has expressed some inhibition about the main battle tank, Arjun. I do not think that, that inhibition is really a worth appreciation. No doubt, it has taken some time; we have spent not less than Rs. 240 crores on it. Now this has been proved by the Army. Winter trials have been successfully conducted; now summer trials have also to be conducted. This main battle tank is not less than any other NATO standards, particularly US made Ebrahim or Leonard of Germany and so on and so forth. It has got its own potential. Kanchan Armoury is unique.

There are so many other integrated things which, of course, much better scientists know and production units know. But, in general, it is certainly a worth main battle tank which India has produced. We should be proud of it; we should congratulate all of them from DRDA, for achieving this.

Then, we have to still equip ourselves. Now, there is an apprehension that in spite of our constant efforts to have friendly, normalised with Pakistan, to have mutual understanding

and cooperation, we are unable to achieve it because of simple factor that they are sponsoring terrorism; and because of their involvement in our internal matters, in our Indian State, we are not able to do that. But, however, if Pakistan has F-16s, if Pakistan is armoured with nuclear weapons, I do not think that India should be afraid of these things. India has got its own conviction and I can fully and confidently inform this august House that any eventuality from any corner, for any reason, Indian Armed Forces will face them. We have full faith; and we will surmount all such things. If China has a nuclear power, if some neighbouring State in the Central Asia has a nuclear power, India has a laid down policy; and our nuclear power will be utilised for the constructive purposes. We shall not utilise our nuclear power for any destructive purposes. We do not have to go for it. Today, the whole scenario in the world has changed; there is no concept of any war.

But we have to defend our territory and for that reason we need to strengthen our defence. Our preparedness of Defence is needed for this purpose only and not for aggression.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): We should get our land vacated from others occupation.

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: This is the war. We want to settle things with others by having bilateral negotiations and with Pakistan under the Simla Agreement. I do not want to waste the time of the hon. Members who are going to give valuable suggestions.

Everybody has got appreciation for DRDO. You will be surprised to know that Prithvi and Trishul are being produced there and they will be inducted shortly. These missiles are not less than the patriots or any other missile. We have already produce a missile which is equivalent to that of Scuds. So, in missile technology also we

do not lack behind any other country. DRDO has contributed to many other things; as for example it has contributed for the MBT.

Today we are using about 5.56 MM infantry small army system. This as much more potential. Now, the concept is that we do not have that much sophisticated weapons which will be able to get rid of them. This 5.56 MM will not merely be used by Army. We will also supply this to the paramilitary forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs. So, this is the outcome of the Research and Development.

Some hon. Member mentioned about the Scud technology. This is the electronic warfare system. It seems that when a patriot missile is targeted for a particular place, the Scuds missile has the capability to destroy it on its way. It is all advanced sophisticated warfare system. So, in electronic warfare system also, we have achieved results.

DRDO has successfully made the Pilotless Target Aircraft. Its working has been demonstrated successfully. These are all our achievements. These are all our indigenous things. So, on the one hand because of foreign exchange crunch and on the other hand because of the methods and the policies of Government of India, in our ordnance factory more than 90 per cent of the things are produced indigenously. In the public sector units also about 40-75 per cent of the things are produced indigenously.

One of the hon. Members asked as to whether DRDO has got any collaboration. It certainly has some Memorandum of Understanding with some other private sector units within our country to develop certain things and to assist them to achieve their objectives in a particular field. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav asked whether the private sector is involved in research and Development activity. Yes, it is being involved. We want to utilise the full capacity of our ordnance factory. That is how we want to diversify our activities and we want to see that the civil sector is also involved. This is the broad outlook of today's

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defence. Of course, I appreciate that there are difficulties.

Sir, without saying anything on ex-servicement, I may be doing injustice. The plight of ex-servicemen is a major concern to us. They have been given facilities no doubt. Whatever facilities that we had given, it appears, are inadequate. But within the parameters, we give the facilities. (Interruptions) About one rank one pension, the Members are likely to ask tomorrow. So, we take care of the ex-servicemen. A Committee has been constituted as the hon. Member, Shri Khanduri, has mentioned. The Committee is going into some lacunae, which have been persisted on this OTI also. We will say after the submission of the report.

Sir, with these few words, once again I congratulate our Armed Force for their bravery, patriotism, professionalism, and discipline in defending the country from external aggression and also helping the country at the time of natural calamities and internal security. I am really happy to note that the entire House is having the same views..(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): You have not said anything about the delegation of financial authorities to the Chiefs and also integrated financial concept.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as delegation of powers to the Chiefs and integrated financial concept are concerned, these are matters of examination. And one has to examine them thoroughly and they easily cannot be delegated. Already sufficient powers had been delegated..(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I hope, it will not be analysis to paralysis..(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Paralysis can also

be paralysed and analysis can also be analysed. It is our mental attitude..(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: It is fine. You have said that the Chiefs had already got powers. As of today, they do not have any financial powers.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: That is what I have clearly mentioned. They have been sufficiently delegated powers. So far as delegation of these powers are concerned, we will examine them.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM-(Inner Manipur): I also claim to be one of the hon. Ministers who are proud of our Armed Forces. I agree with the hon. Members when he praises the achievements and the heroic deeds of our Armed Forces. We heard about the heroic deeds of our Armed Forces when we fought back the Pakistani forces in the past. Although we had suffered a temporary defeat at the hands of the Chinese forces when it committed aggression in 1962 against India, still I am proud of our Armed Forces. So, I am very much convinced after hearing the speech of the hon. Minister just now.

Although I have to praise the achievement of our armed forces, yet I have to raise certain methods relating to the special powers of the armed forces. I rise to raise before this august House how the people suffered on account of delegation of these special powers to the armed forces. We have experienced it. Many hon. Members might have their imagination but not experienced. But, we have experienced, it. This special power to the armed forces is so dangerous, if it is misused and if it falls in the hands of irresponsible officers. It is horrible if it is applied wrongly. This special power to the armed forces was experienced in Manipur when the army was deployed to curb the activities of the insurgents. At present, we are using the army to flush out the extremists and underground organisations of Kukis and Nagas who are fighting against each other, to eliminate each other. But, it is paradoxical to think over it that the people in Manipur and the Government were

asking the Indian Government for deploying these armed forces to flush out these surgents, extremists from the valley. We are expecting a relief from the army. But our women population in large numbers had protested against it.

[*Translation*]

SHRISATYA NARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): This matter pertains to Defence Ministry and we must consider the present situation in the House. Such an important issue is being debated in the House and there is no quorum.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the bell be rung.

19.00 Hrs.

Now the House enjoys quorum. Shri Yaima Singh may continue.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, this special power to the armed forces becomes a terror when it falls in the hands of irresponsible officers. What happens then? Under the provisions of this special power given to the armed forces, the officers and the jawans go and shoot anybody even without giving any reason. It was experienced in my State.

When the Government is asking for the deployment of the armed forces to flush out the insurgents, the women population of the State, in great numbers thousands and thousands of them paraded in the State protesting not to deploy the army. Why? Because it was experienced in the past that these army officers in the district of Urkhul misused the power and committed atrocities on women. There have been occasions when girls were deflowered by jawans and even the matter was raised in the high court against the armed forces.

It is taken that under these special powers, the army people and jawans can do anything

what they like. It has also happened so when army was deployed in Assam. In this House also some of the hon. Members from that region raised an issue how atrocities were committed by the jawans by raping married women and so on. So, the women population in the State say that they do not like these armed forces.

Sir, we are proud of our armed forces. We have to also think of giving such crucial powers to the armed forces for assisting the administration. It is a dangerous pitfall in the hands of persons who are irresponsible. So, Sir, while raising this point, I am coming to the other point of giving training to the jawans of the Army. While giving training to the jawans of the Army in the art of using weapons or for combating, let us also try to infuse the spirit of patriotism and nationalism in the jawans. That will give moral upliftment also to them and they will consider not to misuse their power and it will, to a great extent, restrain them from committing such offences. So, Sir, while giving training to the jawans, let us try to infuse in them the spirit of patriotism so that they can fight better for their Motherland. A battle is won not only by the strength of the army or the number of armed forces or by the whole combination, but also by the spirit of the Army.

19.07 Hrs.

(SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*)

Sir, I will not take much time. I only say that let us encourage our Armed Forces by our giving social recognition to the families of those jawans who fought bravely, who died bravely, who fought for their Motherland. If we give social recognition to their family members, it will boost up their morale and their spirit of sacrifice for their Motherland.

Lastly, Sir, even though my proposal may not be accepted, I may be the only Member who may propose this, still I have to propose that let us have nuclear weapons. My idea is that without strengthening our hands, we cannot deal with others. We must convince the world, we must

tell the world that we are not using nuclear weapons. We must have that courage to convince the world that India is a peace-loving country, so we may not use them. We must have the restraining power not to use them, but let us have the nuclear weapons at least so that we can deal with other countries at par. I mean, when USA has got nuclear weapons, it deals with other countries. Likewise let us have our nuclear weapons, let us manufacture nuclear bombs and other effective weapons so that we can have a good command in dealing with other nations.

Sir, with these few words, I join in praising our Armed Forces.

**SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK** (Bolangir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make only one point. When late Mrs. Gandhi had been to Bolangir, she had announced in a public meeting that one person from each family of displaced persons, that is, those who have sacrificed their land, would get a job in the ordinance factory. But till today they have not got a job in the Defence Services. Secondly, she had announced also in that meeting that one Engineering School or ITI will be established in this area, but till today, it also has not been established. Then, the displaced persons who have sacrificed their land, they have not got their compensation amount from the State Government. So, I request the hon. Minister to interfere in this matter and take necessary steps in this matter.

**SHRI A. ASOKARAJ** (Perambalur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party All India Anna D.M.K., I would like to say a few words. I am not happy over the Budget estimate, but at the outset I want to congratulate our scientists in the Ministry of Defence for their dramatic success with projects such as main battle tank, light combat aircraft and various missiles during this decade. I feel sincerely that it will instill confidence as it is an indigenous research and development work. That is why, I

congratulate our scientists.

In the budget estimate for research and development, the revised estimate for 1992-93 was Rs. 11.75 crores, but the budget estimate for the year 1993-94 is Rs. 11.23 crores. When we congratulate our scientists we should also try to help those scientists who are producing indigenous missiles for our country. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to enhance the allocation for research and development work.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the National Defence Academy. The Sainik Schools and the Indian Military College are preparing the students for the National Defence Academy in their own way. I feel that since education is not like in the past, we should try to improve it not only academically, but the discipline should also be maintained. I am afraid, as the discipline is falling, the standard also will fall automatically. In Tamil Nadu, we have a long coast. There are three regional headquarters of Coast Guard at Bombay, Madras and Port Blair. The coast Guard personnel are required to handle delicate situation at sea. We are providing some ships to the Coast Guard. But I am afraid, these ships of Coast Guard cannot fight out LTTE when they are coming by sea-shore. I am told that these ships can sail only on high sea and when they are nearing the coastal area, it is very difficult for them to approach. But LTTE is also having very fast boats with twin engines. It is quite natural for the people of Tamil Nadu to worry about the situation. So, small and mini boats fitted with superior type of engines and other things should be made available to the Coast Guard. They must have very sophisticated and fast moving boats. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that things should be done.

Next thing I would like to tell you about Katcha Theevu. It is an important thing for Tamil Nadu people. We had given to Sri Lanka Katcha Theevu earlier. But our fishermen who are going for fishing are almost kidnapped by the Sri Lankan Navy, sometimes they are also shot dead by the Sri Lankan Navy. Their boats are

seized and the families of fishermen are very much suffering. Hence I request the hon. Defence Minister to take necessary steps to get back Katcha Theevu from Sri Lanka. Even in Tamil Nadu Assembly, our respected leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi announced that we must get back Katcha Theevu. If Katcha Theevu is not got back to us, from Sri Lanka, I think, the Tamil Nadu people will agitate for it and they will even come out openly for their demand. I would request the hon. Minister to take up this matter very seriously and the island of Katcha Theevu should be got back from Sri Lanka as it is important not only from the Defence point of view but also from the point of providing protection to our fishermen, since their life is also in danger.

Regarding ordnance factories, it should be taken seriously and see that everything must be done according to the standard norms. Regarding re-settlement of ex-servicemen, we are given some figures. But actually their lives are not so satisfactory. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that there is Director General of Resettlement (second career) to take care of the interests of the ex-servicemen. That Directorate is the nodal agency for re-settlement. We must also provide them employment.

We are giving some suggestions and also telling that such and such reservations are made. But I remember one thing. When advertisements are made in the newspapers, it is said: "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people can apply for these posts." But at the end of the advertisement, there was also one sentence. If the suitable candidates are not available, then the post will be given to others. So, naturally when these advertisements are made, even though they were eligible, they were made ineligible and those posts were not given to the SC-ST. I would like to point out this particularly because we are saying something only in words that we are trying to help these people but unfortunately the hands of the officials or the concern authorities who are there to take them, they do not have that mind or the heart to take them. I would like to emphasise that when

you are making reservations, it should be seen that it is done. I am pointing out because SC/ST even though they are given so much support, but actually they are not taken. So, in the Defence also, the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, a special recruitment was launched. In one pamphlet, it is stated:-

"In accordance with the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, a special recruitment drive was launched in the Department of Defence. As a result of this drive, 156 vacancies have been filled."

I was wondering in such a very big organisation, when they are saying that only 156 vacancies are filled up, they did not say how many vacancies are there. We are not able to know how many vacancies were not there and how many people were not taken. It was not actually said in the pamphlet. But they are very much proud of saying that 156 vacancies were filled.

I also request the Minister that the grievances of the ex-servicemen should be redressed. I remember once when I was in the Defence Committee in 1979 in Lok Sabha, we went to Jodhpur and actually some officials came to us and told us with all fear that they did not have housing and other facilities. I asked for more particulars but because of their fear, they did not want to give more particulars. But it is still in my mind that we must try to give them accommodation. We must try to make as much funds as possible to be reserved for accommodation so that they can do their duty with all their capacity.

Finally I would like that regarding going to court by the military personnel, they are approaching the civil court. One of the hon. Members who spoke already has also pointed out this. I am really concerned to say that, in 1982 it was only 29 cases whereas in 1991, it is said that some 1,064 cases were referred to the civil court. I am afraid that this may lead to much confusion. So, I request that a special committee

should be appointed to see that the grievances are eliminated as early as possible. The 40 years old Army Act forcefully urges that at least one writ of appeal should be available to service personnel before an appellate court consisting of independent judges. I hope the hon. Minister will reply on this point.

I want to tell about Pakistan. It is trying its best to destabilise India and to affect its economic development. Pakistan now openly admits that it has the nuclear capability which means that India is not likely to go to war with Pakistan no matter what Pakistan does to India. The latest bomb explosions in Bombay and Calcutta should be seen in this context. also, Pakistan is likely to increase its activities to strike India in future for it is sure that India is not likely to hit back in any meaningful manner. If the Government of India continues to give lowest priority to the country's Defence preparedness, it will only encourage Pakistan to indulge in more dangerous acts of abotage in this country to affect the foreign investment here. Therefore, it is time we realised that without adequate security, there could be no worthwhile economic development. The Prime Minister must have a look at the security scenario in South Asia with great care and take necessary measures to ensure the combat effectiveness of our Armed Forces.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIRSINGH DRONA (Kanpur):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Defence. Had we taken the matter seriously we would not have been satisfied with the allocation made for it in the Budget. I am not personally satisfied with it. Therefore, I cannot support it.

Every country needs Armed Forces for defending its borders, to raise the morale of the

country and to keep its flag high in the World. However, we are proud of our Armed Forces. Armed Forces have done India proud in the recent past. However, in view of the rise in prices and the need for strengthening Defence preparedness proper allocation has not been made in the Central Budget. Last year a sum of Rs. 17,500 crores was allocated while in this year's Budget a sum of Rs. 19,180 crores has been allocated. On the face of it there seems to be substantial increase of Rs. 1680 crores. Overall there is an increase of 9.6 per cent but we should have taken care of the impact of inflation, devaluation of rupee and total convertibility of rupee. To meet the requirements of Armed Forces we must make adequate allocation. I think this increase is not sufficient in view of the higher rates of full convertibility of rupee.

During the discussion it was mentioned that with full convertibility of rupee there will an additional burden of Rs. 1500 crores on the country on account of imports of arms.

Out of the total amount of Rs. 1680 crore if we deduct Rs. 1500 crore, we are left with only Rs. 180 crore. Besides, there are many other problems. After the disintegration of Soviet Russia we purchased most of the defence material from Russia and Ukraine. An agreement was signed and I was told that after the rupee-rubal compromise takes place we would not have any additional burden on us. I have also been told by the officers in the meeting of the Standing Committee that we have been provided repayment facility. I do believe them, but despite that, paucity of funds as compared to our requirements, inadequate facilities for our defence forces, Government's negligence to their service conditions and their needs and inability to keep their morale high are the matters of great concern. Our Defence matters are more important primarily from the point of view of our relations with the neighbouring countries. Just as we have to be quite careful regarding our neighbour at a place where we live, we have to see whether they are reliable or not. We are to



see lest he may do use any opportunity for causing any harm to us. Similar is the position regarding the neighbouring countries. We have a neighbouring country about which I would not hesitate to say that it increases about 12 per cent expenditure on defence purposes every year. Officially they have announced several times that they have attained weapon oriented nuclear power and made sophisticated weapons available to their armed forces. This makes evident that they do not have a soft corner for us as a neighbouring country. The whole country knows this fact. In such circumstances it becomes necessary for all of us—no matter we belong to the opposition or the treasury benches—to ensure the protection of our country and make defence arrangements to give them a befitting reply. Like them, we should also make available sophisticated weapons to our armed forces so that they may use them bravely to maintain the dignity of the country.

It is true that we badly need to boost up the morale of the armed forces. I found the living example of it during the war of 1965. Pakistan had Patton tanks, Sabu jets whereas our armed forces were equipped with only Centurion and Sherman tanks used during the Second World War. But since our soldiers had a high morale they destroyed the Patton tanks with these tanks and converted Khemkaran into a graveyard of Patton tanks. If we expect our armed forces to work with the same spirit, we will certainly have to equip them with most sophisticated weapons to enable them to give a befitting reply to Pakistan. If we do this, only then we would succeed in protecting our country but this would require adequate additional funds.

When the General Budget is prepared, all the aspects have to be given adequate consideration. The Government claims that there is paucity of funds. But at a time when our existence is in danger, our neighbouring country has an ill-will against us and is involved in what is called a 'proxy war' in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir by not only providing arms and ammunition to the anti-social elements but also by imparting

and giving protection to them, we must curtail expenditure on other items to increase our expenditure on defence so much so that we should be ready to skip one time meal to equip our armed forces with most sophisticated weapons, this is my opinion.

I have not been able to understand why despite everything being clear, the Government does not take the matter seriously. One thing more is of concern. I would try not to waste my time on the matters which have already been taken up by the previous Members. I remember when I was a child I saw people were very anxious to join defence.

[English]

It used to be considered as a lucrative job

[Translation]

People working in armed forces had job satisfaction, they lived with dignity. Whenever an officer passed through a way people paid a great respect to him. The most brilliant persons eagerly wanted to join the army. Every Army officer wanted his son to join his regiment when his child succeeded in it, he was very proud of him. I would like to know whether same situation persists even now?

[English]

Do we get the best enough? The answer is no.

[Translation]

The reason is that we are not able to take care of them. Neither we are able to meet their requirements nor we give them proper treatment. When our soldiers fight on the borders and sacrifice their lives for the sake of the country and win the battle, we are proud of them, we appreciate them and also give them awards. However, after a short time when the crisis is over, we adopt a negligent attitude towards them.

[Sh Jagatvir Singh Drona]

The motto of Army has been

[English]

Just to keep army young and efficient

[Translation]

The age of retirement for the soldiers is just 35 years. I know the hardships through which an army soldier has to pass when he retires after spending his youth in the service of his country. I have been associated with a number of organisations of Ex-Servicemen and engage myself in the welfare activities pertaining to them when a person of high character having lived a life of sincerity and self-respect retires, he meets a very indifferent attitude in Government offices, he is asked to give bribe and is harassed whenever he goes. He is unable to get legal assistance if his house has been occupied illegally by someone. He runs from pillar to post but even the 'Special Soldier Boards' fail to provide any assistance to him. He is unable to find many means of livelihood and is unable to settle his family. The Government have made efforts in this direction but these efforts are inadequate. My submission is that we should create such an atmosphere where in the persons whom we have taught to live with dignity and who has sacrificed everything for the sake of his country can lead a respectful life even after retirement. We would certainly have to make provisions for their rehabilitation since the existing provisions are inadequate. If we want that these things are actually materialised then the provisions made in the present Budget would be inadequate.

I would also like to make another submission in brief that the assistance of army should be taken as an aid to civil authority. Army should be called only when there is no other alternative. Recently I have been observing that our faith in paramilitary forces has reduced, as a result of which whenever there is a bit problem army

troops are deployed at various points. However, it involves two factors—first that these troops are trained with a motive of 'shoot-to-kill' at borders. But when they are deployed on civilian job, they are not to work with this motive. In those circumstances they are supposed to fire just to frighten the people and not to kill them. This paradox would have an adverse effect on their capability and this is not good for them. Secondly, public holds armed forces in high esteem, this is an undisputed fact wherever a soldier passes through a way, people give a great respect to him. But if the army continues to be deployed for civilian purposes the role of the soldiers may become controversial. It will demoralise them. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should immediately check the extensive use of army. They should be deployed for civilian purpose only when there is no other alternative and not as a general phenomenon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are bound to purchase all the equipments today on cash payment and this will adversely affect our present budget. So if we want to equip our forces with the modern weapons, we will have to make more provision in the Budget in this regard. The allocation made for Research and Development Organisation has been increased only by Rs 40 crores. To some extent it is correct and this organisation is working satisfactorily.

Sir, everybody admits that the latest Main Battle Tank is an achievement. But some doubts have also been expressed about it and I would like to draw the attention of the House towards them. It has been said that there is some problem with its engine and when its turret is brought at a particular angle, the crew faces a lot of problem in coming out of the tank. I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention in this regard. Last year, there was no increase in the allocation made in the Revised Budget for Research and Development Organisation but it is good that it has been increased this year.

The Light Combat Aircraft Scheme is lying pending in the R&DO for the last 10 years and a lot of amount has already been spent on it. It is being heard now that there is a hunt for a

collaborator for producing the aircraft. Only the God knows the truth. Attention should be paid in this regard also. I have got another disturbing information. It is that we are collaborating with the South Eastern countries for production of defence equipments. There are two firms named I D P A in Singapore and I T P M in Indonesia with whom we are going to collaborate. If we are going to have collaboration with these countries what will be the use of our research and development and from where the foreign exchange will be made available as there is no such provision in the Budget. Will this project be funded by some private parties? If it is so the Government can well imagine the consequences of it. The Maruti Ydyog Ltd is manufacturing and selling hundred per cent Japanese Maruti cars etc. May be this collaboration will have the same consequences. I want that the hon. Minister should clarify all these doubts in his reply.

Mr Chairman Sir I would like make another request to the Government through you that it is necessary to keep the morale of our army high and for that we have to equip them with the latest weapons because we do not have very good relations with our neighbouring countries and they are always in search of opportunities to usurp our land. To fight back them it is necessary that our forces should be as well equipped as theirs. Until this is done our country will always remain in a situation of uncertainty. So I would like to request the Government that the defence expenditure should be increased even if the expenditure on some other sources has to be curtailed. Some suggestions such as disposal of old obsolete equipments, disposal of surplus land etc. for generating resources for meeting the Defence expenditure were also given in this regard. Such schemes should be welcome and money can be earned from them. The installed capacity of our ordinance factories is worth appreciable, but it is not being utilised properly. Most of the work should have been undertaken in the ordinance factories, but we are getting it done in the private sector. This sort of disease of privatisation in the field has been adversely affecting us for the last 10 to 12 years.

Although, we are paying full salaries to the employees and other expenditure is also borne by the Government yet the capacity of ordinance factories is not utilised to the maximum. It should be utilised for the production of our defence equipments and if possible we can produce goods for our private sector, and their products can also be exported. We have to mobilise our resources. The revolver manufactured by the Small Arms Factory is given to the public at a price of Rs 42000/-, whereas its actual price is near about Rs 1 lakh. One and a half years ago this revolver was given at a price of Rs 12000/- only. Through this procedure, there will be a check on illegal arms and we can earn money by selling our produce. All such sources should be tapped and the Government should curtail the unnecessary expenditure and should invariably increase the budgetary allocation for defence expenditure. It is inadequate at present and it will not be able to equip our forces to that extent as we want. So I oppose this budget.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla) Mr Chairman Sir I rise to support the demands of the Defence Ministry. So far as the defence of our country is concerned our soldiers, officials and employees should be praised and thanked. I would express a few points here. Firstly, I would like to give some suggestions about our retired soldiers. A forest force should be raised with them so that they can save the environment as well as get employment also. They are a disciplined lot. I hope the Government will pay attention in this regard and will raise a forest force with these retired soldiers and maximum fund, provided for environment should be given to this force and a new fund should also be set up for it, so that plantation work in the entire country can be undertaken properly. Secondly, no one is allowed to construct shops or house in the cantonment areas on his own. Every year an auction is held in this regard. The civilians living there suffer due to it. Those who live in the cantonment areas should at least be given regular allotments. In the elected cantonment boards there is an objective officer and a Vice President

[Sh Krishan Dutt Sultanpun]

who works under the Objective Officer. It is the discretionary power of the Objective Officer whether it agrees to the decision taken by the Members of the Board or not. In this regard I would like to say that as far as the powers regarding the work relating to cantonment area should be vested in the cantonment board and the Objective Officer who is an army personnel should have his final say on it but as far as the powers regarding the work relating to civilian area should be vested in the representatives of civilians. These cantonments were set up during the British period and there is no proper arrangements for roads and electricity. Therefore I would say that in the Budget more allocation should be given for the improvement of the cantonment areas.

(MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I have been elected from Shimla where there are 6 cantonment boards. The representatives are elected there in a democratic way. It depends upon the board to accept or reject their suggestions. A large number of people from Kangra had joined the defence forces and spent their lives in the army. Their regiment is known as Dogra Regiment. Most of the soldiers of this regiment belonged to Una, Hamirpur, Mandi, Kullu etc. But today their number has lessened due to withdrawal of the quota fixed for their recruitment. This is causing unemployment in the said areas. They are patriotic people. So, I would like to request that this quota should be restored so that the Dogra Regiment can have the maximum benefit of their services.

There are several army schools in the entire country and in Himachal Pradesh too. An army school is situated in Dakshai Cantonment where wards of retired defence employees and officials study but they have to pay more fees. The schools which have been opened for the children of defence personnel should not charge more fees even if the defence personnel is retired. The retired employee should not be taken as a

civilian one. I would like to submit that the intelligent wards of civilians should also be allowed to study in these schools, whether they belong to villages or cities. Particularly, the children of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be given admission in these schools and no fees should be charged from them as it is done in other schools and colleges.

The opposition Members were saying that the allocation made for the defence personnel in the Budget is inadequate. I would like to submit that this Government has never given less funds for them and nor it will do so. It has always given adequate funds for the Defence purposes. There had never been such inadequate provision as has made us unable to pay the salaries of soldiers and officials. Our forces took part in the Bangladesh war and forced the enemy country to surrender. At that time Indira ji did not allow to create any shortage of commodities for the soldiers. The work done by our soldiers at that time is praiseworthy. Our Government always takes good steps in this direction. So I am unable to understand as to how it can neglect our defence personnel. It is our belief that it will never give inadequate funds for the defence personnel. Shri Narasimha Rao is our Prime Minister. Our Defence Minister and Home Minister are also quite experienced persons. They will make all out efforts to fulfil the requirements of defence personnel. But this effort which is being made to defame and weaken the country is not right. It is also being said that nothing is being given to the defence personnel. This is not right. We may remain hungry but we cannot tolerate that the Defence personnel may not get their salaries. The country can only be saved if all the people work with honesty. When people take to agitations or create mandir-masjid dispute the Army had to be called to maintain peace. Our population is 90 crores and there are 13 lakh soldiers to fulfil its needs. Any way you have the only slogan 'Go on strike'. There are frequent strikes here and there and police have to be deployed in large number. Our elected representatives should avoid organising strikes. They should actually keep interests of the nation above everything.

and not in the manner the people of the B.J.P. are concerned by raising the Mandir-Masjid issue. The game of the B.J.P. is over. Thanks God, people of the country have now come to know that neither these people are concerned with the temple nor with the masjid. They just want to make everybody fight.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as our stand towards our neighbouring countries and particularly towards Pakistan is concerned, we are all united. Our army is always vigilant to combat any situation that may spring up in the background of the fact that training camps for the terrorists of Kashmir and Punjab are being run by Pakistan. The credit goes to military personnel only who have so far been defeating the design of Pakistan. Subsequently, peace is returning to Punjab and it will also be so in Kashmir. I think that our country can be saved if united efforts are made by all. Change in the attitude is essential if we want prosperity of the country. With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the time allotted for this discussion was five hours. It ended at 7.35 p.m. I had made a request that upto 8 o'clock, the House should be extended. The basic idea is that, all those who wish to speak or participate in the debate may complete their speeches today.

The Prime Minister will start his reply tomorrow and thereafter, we have a number of Ministries to be covered. At least, we must be capable of doing it at least three, this week. Otherwise, we won't be able to do much justice to the Demands for Grants. If, there are any Members who wish to speak in the Opposition,

they may indicate their names so that, the Prime Minister's reply could be started early tomorrow. Otherwise, it will be dragged again and we will lose time in other Demands for Grants like the Home and the External Affairs. Tomorrow, also, we will be having discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per your instruction the sitting of the House was extended upto 8 p.m. You may now be pleased to adjourn the House today and may allow the remaining Members to speak tomorrow. That will be followed by the Government reply.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A few more hon. Members want to speak. If you all cooperate, we will be able to finish the business. I hope, the House agrees with this proposal.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, I suggest that you may extend the time by another thirty minutes. Let us finish the discussion so that the Prime Minister can reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a reasonable approach to the problem. all right. Shri Surya Narayan Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the demands of the Ministry of Defence. The most neglected section in the country, if there is any, is the army and then the farmers. Our former Prime Minister late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan- "Jai Jawan, Jai Kishan". But I do not know as to what happens that all the Governments that came to power neglect both army and the farmers. That is why I rise to oppose the demand.

[Sh Surya Narayan Yadav]

20.00 Hrs.

Sir we had a war with China which is a neighbouring country When the country was faced with such a situation all the mothers and sisters of the country offered their jewelries to support the country in those moments of crisis Our country can display such kind of unity As has been said by our colleague just now people have still the same respect and reverence for the army Yet I do not know why the hon Members who participated in the discussions on budget in the past had urged the Government to be liberal in budgetary allocation for army We see at times analysis in this regard on television and during war At times we get the chance to see the army personnel jumping out of a helicopter climbing a mountain through bushes crossing the river and engaged in such other acts All that gives an impression that they are the real sons of the soil But when they retire from service and return their home they do not get the same respect The Government announced number of schemes for the ex-servicemen viz issuance of permits to open petrol pumps gas agencies and permits to run buses But I can say with authenticity that not more than 7 per cent ex-servicemen have been benefitted through such schemes The Government can conduct a survey to ascertain the facts in this regard Credit goes to the army personnel that in spite of the fact that they live a hard life and that they are neglected they sacrifice their lives for the prestige of the country There are several examples of it which I would not like to cite here

Sir in the existing circumstances the children of the country need to be educated through military schools The need of the hour is to open one military school in every district or commissioner's headquarters of every state and children of farmers and other rural people should get education in those schools so that they may be disciplined I would therefore like to submit that the Government should consider these points and should try to make such provisions

I believe that when a particular country makes progress, when a particular person makes some progress that is to say when he becomes a billionaire from a millionaire then he aspires to become a trillionaire I am happy when the Government says that the country is facing economic crisis It gives me the impression that our country is making progress I would like to support my view with the example that when a person acquires wealth fairly enough to meet his requirements he cannot make any further progress Nobody in the world has been able to fulfil his need of wealth There is no such example There will be a crisis of money when demands increase But we are required to assess its importance And that is why I said that the Government should try to fulfil the dreams of former Prime Minister late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri There was a great thought when he gave the slogan Jai Jawan Jai Kisan They are now the most neglected sections of the country

Sir I would not take much time and conclude by raising three four points Pakistan is engaged in organising trainings for terrorists to send them in India It is a kind of war In our local dialect we may call it mall Yuddh (wrestling) A war between India and Pakistan is imminent this cannot be denied We tolerate such things I have made a demand even in the past that our country needs making nuclear bomb because our neighbouring country has already made it Through you I would like to know as to what measures have been taken by India to counter if a nuclear bomb is used from Lahore in future It is all right that we would not launch any attack on Pakistan but what is wrong in making it for the purpose of self-defence We will not of course misuse it

I have submitted time and again that the Government should be serious about this question Not for a war but even for peace we are required to make nuclear bomb I wish the Government should make an announcement in this regard It does not make any difference

Secondly I would like to say something in

regard to China. A reference of China-war has been made here. A great communication problem had emerged when our country was on war with China. Due to that problem we were not able to transport food and other things to the army deployed on the front. There was a problem of roads in Bihar and Assam through which food items might be rushed to the border. Realising the need for such a road, the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru felt the need to construct border road from Darbhanga to Pharisganj in the North Bihar. Communication upto the Chinese border would be available if that road is constructed. I would like to submit that keeping in view the importance of that road and also keeping in view the fact that it falls under border area, the Government must construct that road. The Ministry of Defence has the responsibility of constructing that road and we know there is no audit of defence budget. I feel that whenever the funds allocated in the budget are not utilised fully, that fund is lapsed. I ask, why not that money is utilised to construct such important roads irrespective of the consideration that those roads will have to be constructed in North Bihar or on the border of Kashmir or in any other place. The Government must utilise that money for constructing important roads.

Now I would like to submit about honour of soldiers. Britishers made many regiments in our country, i.e. Rajput regiment, Jat regiment, Gorkha regiment and Sikh regiment. Their argument was that these were fighter and brave tribes. I also say that these people and regiments are brave but are the other regiments not fighter and brave? Are Paswans weak fighters? There were Kurmi and Ahir regiments during the British time. Why were these regiments disbanded? You please think over it. I am not in favour of any regiment. I think that there should be no such regiment. We have many States in our country, i.e. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh. You can constitute separate regiment in the name of these States. It will be the best course. Then there will no discrimination and everybody will be equal. (*Interruptions*)

In connection with deserters I would say that even Sikh regiment deserted during the Operation Blue Star. That is a separate thing and I do not want to go into it. Traitors should get punishment, I have no objection to it. I would say that regiments should be constituted in the name of patriotism, in the name of States and the country instead of constituting it in the name of castes. Then people will honour it and that is correct also.

Now I would like to discuss a point regarding ex-servicemen. You have not implemented the 'same rank, same pension' scheme even though it has been discussed several times here. You should not discriminate in this matter.

Sir, I submitted a few important points before you. I hope that you will think over them and make necessary improvements. In addition I would request you to provide maximum facilities to ex-servicemen and their wards.

In the end, I would like to raise another point. If a soldier is posted at the border and his wife is working at a distant place, arrangements should be made for transfer of wife to a place of her choice. There are rules to this effect but practically the State Governments pay least attention in this direction. So, I would request you to give instructions to ex-servicemen cell constituted in every State, for taking immediate action in such cases. I would request you to give instructions to State Governments in this regard.

In the end, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRIM V V S MURTHY (Visakhapatnam)  
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Defence Budget. I do not want to take much time because several eminent speakers spoke about the need for action on the side of the Government.

Sir, you know, our country is one of the largest countries in the world with lots of water areas.



[Sh M V S Murthy]

exposed to the other countries. We got mountainous area on the border, and the coastal area on the border. And because of the vulnerability of the coastal area, a lot of smuggling activity is being noticed. I am sure, this aspect could also be tackled by the defence personnel.

For instance, I come from the coastal area, Visakhapatnam, where the Eastern Naval Chief is also stationed there. But unfortunately, many activities of the smuggling nature are taking place. But these are the areas which the Ministry has to take into account.

Our country today is having one of the best Armies. I can say they are the real brave sons of the country. They deserve every pat on their back. They are spending their whole life for the country. But at the same time we are not giving the importance that is required for this Ministry.

I am sure, this is one of the largest Budgets of the various Ministries. Even then, there is no responsible Cabinet Minister also for this Ministry. This aspect should be looked into immediately by the hon. Prime Minister.

On the training side also, we are not having sufficient facilities for attracting the young men into the fold of the defence personnel to safeguard our borders. There are Sainik schools all over the country. Their condition is deplorable. They do not get the help that is required. Near Korukonda, and in my constituency, there is one Sainik school. I happened to be a member on the Board of Governors of the school. The Defence Minister and the other Members are on the Board. I am afraid the Board does not meet even once in a year to look into the needs of the Sainik Schools. If this is the state of affairs for the Sainik Schools, how can we rate into other aspects?

I would also like to say a few words about the quality of the life of the defence personnel, those who are working in the defence services. They

are sacrificing everything, their family, their children and everything, and even then we are equating their services with the services of the white collared jobs. So, I suggest that Defence Services should be given a priority of treatment when compared to other services in the various categories.

The eligible young people must also be taught of serving a certain tenure of their career in the defence forces. In other countries every person, in case of emergency, is a trained person to serve in the services. But, in our country it is not so. We recruit people only from some areas and majority of the areas are not represented in times of crisis. The services of the defence personnel are not available to the country.

I do not want to take much time of the House. We are using army as police personnel. Army is a specialised category of service and their services should be utilised in calamities only. The police service is meant for maintaining law and order in the State and it is a State service. But, we are using the armed forces for that purpose also. So, this makes an unnecessary extra burden on the part of the defence personnel, forgetting their actual need.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Defence Minister that defence production is so much changed all over the world but not in our country. So many countries are having so many sophisticated weaponry, whereas our country is using obsolete models like tankers etc. As a result of that, the production cost is so high and the performance is so nil. The Government's policy is not to encourage the obsolete industry. If that is the case, in the defence production also, it should not be encouraged so that our money can be utilised for better purposes, because our resources are limited and our needs are very high. If that is the case then we should think of utilising to the maximum extent possible the available resources so that resource crunch will not be there for this Ministry. In the procurement of and other equipment things, a very high degree of specialisation, efficiency and honesty

etc are required. It is not like acquiring some machinery for some other thing, and if it do not work, we can throw it out. But, here in defence, it involves the country's safety, safety of the personnel working in the defence services

We must have a sophisticated weaponry system. We should also think of providing our personnel with the latest weaponry system. We should cut down the wasteful expenditure whenever possible. The Budget should be utilised for the purpose of efficient management of the defence personnel.

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam)

I thank you for extending me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Defence for the year 1993-94. I extend my support to the Defence Budget and I would like to share some of my views in this regard.

Our country faces a serious crisis today because of the threat perception we get on two counts. On one side Pakistan is giving training and providing arms to the terrorists who infiltrate and cause havoc both in Jammu and Kashmir and in Punjab. This was quite evident from the bomb blasts that have occurred in the city of Bombay. Like wise the LTTE militants from Sri Lanka are infiltrating into Tamil Nadu and go about with their activities. We must have to put an end to it. Hence we need to revamp and strengthen our Armed Forces.

Hence I would like to suggest to the Government to go in for conscription at least in these problem States. Students from the colleges should be roped in and they should be given training. After their studies are over, they should be given military training for about a year and they should be enrolled in the Armed Forces. This kind of training based on the principle catch them young would instil confidence in the minds

of people and it could be a training in discipline too for the young. Such youth after proper training could be enlisted in Army, Navy and Air Force as per their aptitude and training.

I would like to emphasise a point here in this regard. At Arakkonam, in the expanse of about five thousand acres of land an Air-Base has been set up. As it is an inland Naval base and as it is a newly established one it could be further expanded to rope in more youth around the place. You can recruit talented and efficient students around the place and you can give them training. It is a strategically and logistically important location from the country's defence point of view. Hence, the new Air-Base over there should be expanded and modernised with sophisticated war-machines for an efficient war-preparedness. Even during the time of Britishers there used to be an Air Base located there. Hence I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to give the due consideration to set up a full-fledged Air Station.

You can even contemplate setting up of plants to manufacture the spare parts needed for our fighter planes in the Air Force and other Armed Forces units.

In the event of your going in for recruiting trainees at Arakkonam from among the student community, you must ensure that they get adequate and improvised modern training while they are sent to different parts of the country. In order to expand the Air Base at Arakkonam you should go in for enhancing the number of personnel over there. The staff and men should increase in strength. The officials of the Air Base should build a rapport with the people and people's representatives like MPs around the place. This would help the people's representatives to take to the notice of the Government the felt needs of the emerging Air Base. I would like to draw the attention of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The Air Base at Arakkonam was set up

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

[Sh R Jeevarathnam]

during our earlier regime and it was our late leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi who laid the foundation stone for the same. He came there and commenced the setting up of an Air Base over there. Hence I request the present Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to pay a visit to our Arakkonam Air Base. On your visit you must also consider naming the Air Base after late Shri Rajiv Gandhi which would be an appropriate commemorative tribute to his visionary zeal.

It is also noteworthy to consider the fact that North Arcot and Ambedkar Districts have sent more men to our armed Forces. They even took part in IPKE operations in Sri Lanka. Many of them who have died there during those operations were from these two districts.

I would request the ministry concerned and thereby the Government to set up a Sainik School alongside the Air Base. You have enough of land available over there in the vicinity. Bearing all these factors, you must allocate more liberally to expand and modernise the Air Base over there. I feel the funds allotted for Arakkonam Air Base is not sufficient. It is less this year than that of last year. Hence you may kindly enhance the allocation further. I request you to give a serious thought to it to make the new Air Base a sophisticated institution.

Now that there are reports about the increased presence of LTTE militants in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, the situation calls for an increased attention from the Ministry of Defence. We now hear that LTTE militants are smuggling out petroleum products from our coastal area. Hence it is needless to emphasise the need to strengthen our Coastal Guard operations especially on the shores of Tamil Nadu and the South East of it.

Sophisticated small Patrol Boats can be indigenously manufactured in a large number to step up the Coastal vigil day in and day out.

Efficient and talented sailors and ranks should be given training in Naval Air Base at Arakkonam.

Government should come out with appropriate measures to take proper care of ex-servicemen. The children of Armed Forces personnel and ex-servicemen should be given priority to get admitted in professional colleges and other educational institutions. Such students from the families of military personnel should be given 5% reservation while seeking admission in Engineering and Medical Colleges. The same may be extended while they go for employment opportunities. Retired Armed Forces personnel based on their educational qualifications should be given priority in appointment made in both Central and State Civil Services. They should get 5% reservation in employment opportunities in Bank Recruitments and other public sector undertakings.

Many countries possess nuclear weapons and nuclear capability. Though we have made advance researches and are harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in a constructive way, I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to reconsider our nuclear option. Our capability needs to be proved. If need be, we may have to change our policy. We should go in for manufacturing submarines with advanced technology. Sophisticated small arms manufacturing should be taken up to meet our own requirements and even to make ourselves arms dealers. Pilotless fighter planes should be developed by us and the needed infrastructure should be built-up. Our technicians should be exposed to advanced professional training in this regard.

If for one who feel that this year's allocation for the Defence Budget is sufficient and it is not directly proportionate to the threat perception we have as of today. Commanders of our Army, Navy and Air Force are commendable soldiers..I Congratulate them on this occasion and I also want to put on record my appreciation to the officers and men and the whole staff of our Armed Forces.

Even before our country could win freedom Madras Regiment was set up in the erstwhile Madras Province. Britishers were ably assisted by this Regiment and they were able to capture Burma and the then Ceylon. Madras Regiment carved a name for itself. Likewise you may raise new regiments in every State. I request you to consider this option again. With this I conclude my speech supporting the Demands for Grants pertaining to Ministry of Defence.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now Mr  
Khanoria

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram) Sir

there is no quorum in the House

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The bell is being rung

I find, there is no quorum in the House. Hence the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 00 a m

20.35 Hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 28 1993/ Vaisakha 8 1915 (Saka)*