

**(viii) Need to declare Nagapattinam - Gudalur - Mysore State Highway as National Highway**

DR. N. MURUGESAN (Karur) : Nagapattinam - Gudalur - Mysore State Highways is a very important road covering Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tricity, Periyar, Coimbatore districts. It is more than 600 km. in length.

I urge upon the Central Government to take appropriate steps to convert it as a National Highway so that Nagapattinam Port may get significance.

13.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.35 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
1995-96 — Contd.**

**(i) Ministry of Defence - Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav will continue his speech.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have a feeling that there is a complacency like situation in our Defence Ministry and I have reason to say so. The burning example of this is what has happened recently in Chrar-e-Sharief in Kashmir Valley. It is admitted by all that whatever we may say, that there is a large number of presence of army in Kashmir Valley, it is a fact. It is rightly so because there is a serious threat from across the border and therefore we have to take every care and we have to prepare ourselves to meet any kind of threat. But one example of the complacency and lack of imagination is that Pakistan has been able to send terrorists continuously to the religious shrines in Kashmir Valley. What has happened in Hazratbal? We did not take any lessons from that. The terrorists came in spite of the presence of our security forces, in spite of our armed forces all along the border; they captured the shrine, they burnt the whole village. And what message has gone? The message that has gone is that in spite of a big presence of armed forces, people can come, challenge our armed forces and get away with that; they burnt the whole village, they burnt the shrine and the leader of the terrorist group has also escaped. In spite of surrounding by the army, they entered into the shrine, remained there, they burnt it and they got away

with that. It is one burning example and it is a serious thing. Does it not give this message that there is lack of imagination on our part, there is lack of alertness on our part or there is lack of cooperation on our part or there is lack of threat perception on our part and we are not fully geared up to meet this kind of a situation. Now, when we are being surrounded, every time we are saying that there is a threat to our sovereignty, there is a threat from across the border. But how is our preparation? I would like to quote from the Report of the Standing Committee on Defence. What have they said? Sir, I am also a Member of the Defence Consultative Committee. The Minister is sitting here; I do not want to bring the names of the officers, but the officers have to be truthful; they must give the correct picture to Parliament, to the Parliamentary Standing Committees, to the nation. This is their duty and they have not lagged behind in performing their duty. But what are we doing?

Sir, I will say it is a matter of shame that for the last ten years our Defence Ministry has not been able to provide Advanced Jet Trainer, what is called AJT. We have not been able to provide and the Ministry and our army has said that we have to provide it at a very high cost; our pilots die because they could not get proper training at proper time.

We know that Pakistan has four to five Advanced Jet Trainers. We call Pakistan our enemy. We call that Pakistan is a threat to our sovereignty. The point is that Pakistan, which is a small country, can manage to have Advanced Jet Trainers but India fails to get them and fails to perform its duty so, I charge this Government of complacency. It is not that inadequacy of funds is the reason. How is it that in this most vital thing, you have failed? Today, we know that the Air Force is playing a most important role. What we saw in Iraq? Electronic warfare is there. We are in the era of electronic warfare. We are in the era of nuclear weapons. But our preparation is such that we cannot provide Advanced Jet Trainers to our Air Force Pilots. It is a serious thing. It is not only this. The Committee expressed its anguish on another issue over the manner in which the Defence Ministry had handled the matter regarding the replacement of the ageing Aircraft Carrier Vikrant. It was obviously for the past many years that there was a gradual erosion in operational viability and that the life-span of Vikrant could not be stretched beyond mid-1992. The year 1992 was over. We are in the midst of 1995 now. Will the Minister tell this House how they are going to deal with the situation?

Sir, the Navy is also becoming an important factor. What is happening? Take the case of China and Burma. China is trying to enlarge its Navy. It has already entered into an agreement with Burma. It is going to help them to have a new Port where its Navy will be stationed. What is happening in Pakistan? Are you not aware of this fact that Pakistan has enlarged its Navy, has modernised its Navy and it is still going on modernising