

मिचने से उनकी आर्थिक दशा दयनीय हो गई है।

अतः कृषि मंत्री जी से आग्रह है कि इस संबंध में अविलम्ब यथोचित कार्रवाई की जाये और मिल का नवीनीकरण कराया जाये।

(viii) Need of grant "No Objection" by Delhi Cantonment Board to Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking for electrification of area adjoining Naraina village

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): Sir, large number of people residing in the area adjoining village Naraina in Delhi Cantonment are without electricity for a long time as the Government Board has refused to grant 'No Objection' to the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking which is ready to supply electricity to the area.

People have already deposited security money for getting electric connection and they are at a loss to understand why the Cantonment Board with its unhelpful attitude is causing them grave inconvenience.

To deny electricity to the people on the plea that the land will be required for Defence purpose is not at all convincing. In case of need, alternative arrangements will have to be made for those who have been allowed to occupy the Cantonment land.

I request the Defence Minister to direct the Delhi Cantonment Board to issue 'No Objection' to Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking so that the area adjoining Naraina village could be electrified immediately.

(ix) Demonstration by the Railway employees in Delhi for interim relief and wage revision

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, today thousands of Railway employees have come to Delhi from different parts of the country to stage a massive demonstration in front of the Parliament House to demand interim relief to the Railway employees pending settlement of their other

demands including wage revision based on parity with the wages of the public sector employees. On behalf of the Railway workers, a petition is also being submitted to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha urging an early settlement of the Railway workers' demands.

I request the Union Railway Minister to make a statement on the demands of the Railway employees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is very good that a former Railway Minister is making a demand of the Railway employees when he is not a Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, 80 per cent of them, I have already granted.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): It is supported by the Deputy-Speaker,

12.42 hrs.

Demands for Grants, 1983-84—Contd.

(i) Ministry of Defence—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will resume further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

Hon. Members, it was announced yesterday that the time for this debate was over and the discussion would be over when the Minister would reply to the debate immediately after the preceding item was over. Now, two more requests came to me from two hon. Members that they wanted to speak. All hon. Members are requested hereafter that they should give their names in advance when the discussion starts and they should also remain present throughout the discussion. In the present case, we are put in an inconvenient position because we have got requests from one ex-Minister and from one very active Member, Shri Unni-

krishnan that may be allowed to speak, and I cannot reject those requests. Therefore, as a special case, I allow these two Hon. Members to speak and then the Minister would reply. This is allowed as a special case and this should not be quoted as a precedent. I would request them that they should speak very briefly and the Minister will reply thereafter.

12.43 hours.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN** (Badagara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, I am grateful for your kindness extended to me. And I shall keep in mind your observations regarding the brevity of time at my disposal.

Sir, it is one of those area occasions where we should not be actually bothered much about time because we spend about Rs. 6,000 crores on the Defence expenditure and the only occasion that this Parliament has to exercise any vigilance of scrutiny over this important segment of our budgetary expenditure is the 6-hour debate. In one hour, we had been actually disposing of a thousand crores of rupees on an average. So, I would also request you and this House not to grudge the time. That does not suggest that I am going to take more time.

Sir, the Demands of this Ministry are very crucial and there is no other forum because it impinges on the national security needs and the security environment of the country and the fitness of our Defence forces and the Defence production apparatus.

The only opportunity that we have had is the annual debate on the Demands of this Ministry.

As I reminded you, Sir, the expenditure this year has gone up to Rs. 5,971 crores for 1983-84. It may be true that in global terms or even considering the amount of defence expenditure incurred by China and Pakistan, we spend less. But it is also a colossal amount which we cannot ignore. The defence expenditure of any country and

more so of ours should be viewed in the context of the global strategic environment and the fundamental need to preserve our territorial integrity and our national interest but it should be judged, if I may be permitted to say so, in the context of the socio-economic milieu of the country. I cannot be separated because the defence ultimately means defence in the minds of the people, how to train people, what kind of ideals to be put before them and how you are able to bring about certain cohesion and discipline in the country. It cannot be separated. Our achievements on the domestic front and the economic front alone is the best defence that can be built against any kind of invaders or invasions or any kind of security threats.

The threats to our national security remain. There has been massive build-up in our neighbouring country, in Pakistan prompted by the global imperialist interests of the United States and also some kind of support which they get from some other countries. We cannot also ignore the tremendous military machines that our neighbour China has and its tremendous potential for mischief and also the build-up in and around Indian Ocean, the developments that are going on, and also in the West Asian countries which are not very far from us, particularly, the OPEC countries with tremendous amount of resources. It is in this context, in the global, regional and national context, that our defence expenditure of the colossal amount must be viewed and judged.

While I would be the last one to grudge any amount spent on defence, we have always to bear in mind and, I am sure, the hon. Defence Minister would also do so, that we are a rich country, but we have a poor people. We are not only poor but this country is one of the biggest reservoirs of poverty and misery in the entire world. So, every rupee that we spend on anything, a certain amount of alertness, a certain amount of cost consciousness, has to be kept in mind. I am sorry to say that this is not the case with the Ministry of Defence.

One of the social contradictions of this country is that on the one hand, we have

the largest number of illiterates in the country, on the other, we are the third biggest reservoir of technical and trained scientific manpower. So, we have also immense capacity to absorb and update technology of the most sophisticated variety. Therefore, the question has to be asked as to whether the expenditure that is incurred is necessary, whether the expenditure that is incurred is done with economy and cost consciousness and whether our defence capabilities have the required technological capability. Therefore, the Parliament has a right to ask: what do we do with the money that is voted? What does the Defence Ministry and the Services do with the money? It is not just enough to say that country's defence interests are paramount. Nobody in this country and in the House disputes it. But the Parliament has a right to ask the questions as to how the money is spent. It cannot be just said, by repeating *ad nauseam*, that the country's interests are paramount.

In the circumstances, as I have said in the past and also supported by many hon. Members that there is an urgent need for a parliamentary standing committee to scrutinise defence policies and expenditure which can meet more regularly and more often.

If I remember aright, it was one of the recommendations of both the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee in the past.

Our security compulsions make self-reliance in defence imperative. It is also of top-most priority. But as in other sectors of the economy in recent years, there has been a gradual slackness developing in our thrust for self-reliance.

There is a preference for imports. There is a climate. That is the economic climate and Defence Ministry also has not been free from it in recent years.

I am not questioning for a moment their nature of combat technology today. It is a very dynamic area of development and a very fast changing area of high technology and we cannot and we should not opt

out of this. I am not suggesting it in the least. But it depends upon how, in the larger sphere of industry and economy, we build our own Research and Development effort and expand our industrial applications.

Therefore, it is very important if somebody questions some other developments like the main battle tank, it will not be judged and it will not be replied to in a very sensitive manner. The main battle tank was to be the project of 80s. I am sure the House would agree that we are in right 83 now.

I would request you to please take the Defence Ministry annual report and see p. 103 paras 11.1 and 11.2:

“During the year, progress was continued in completing the development work for various sub-systems of MBT.”

How many times, probably in the same pages, in the same paragraphs, the very sentence has been repeated. This sentence has been repeated in the annual reports of the Defence Ministry for the last five years.

You can check up. They continue to make progress in the sub-systems and continue to spend money voted by Parliament, but the project does not take off. The engine does not kick off. Should we question this or not? Do we have a right to question this or not? The hon. Minister is very extra-sensitive about this criticism. Earlier whenever there was some press criticism on this, the Hon. Minister replied that it was a pressure of foreign lobbies. I hope you will not suggest the same thing about my criticism. Unfortunately, most of the people who represent foreign lobbies are on the other side whether it is Snia Viscosa and Simmel of Italy who tried to brow-beat our officers—he should find it out—in the name of a lady VVIP, down to WETRA, a Danish firm with dubious Israeli connections. It is the same story.

I know yesterday the Hon. Minister for whom I have great respect has defended the

Israeli deal. But please don't forget he has also defended Mr. Antulay. He is a very good man with a brilliant mind, but unfortunately he has fallen among a pack of wolves.

Our attempt is to pinpoint your deficiencies and...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He also said how he supported Mr. Antulay.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : and correct them. The army alone imports. Rs. 1,600 crores worth of equipment. I am not saying that you should have updated your technology and absorbed it. But there are very many critical areas where enough capacity has been built in this country and if Defence Research Organisation can be revamped and the scientists are given more responsibility as well as facilities, it is possible to develop this.

In the DRDO there has been a complaint that the promotional avenues of the civilian scientists in the establishments and R & D are very much limited. It is very important if we have to avoid certain imports, that highest priority must be given for our scientists and for those who work in our defence research establishments and production centres so that we can avoid these imports. For example, now we are importing, I was told, 25,000 pieces of machine pistols and Rs. 90 crores worth of heavy machineguns. India at one time, at the time of Mr. Krishna Menon when he was Defence Minister, started entering a new era, a new phase, of defence self-reliance in defence capabilities. We produced the famous Ishapur rifle. It is possible for us to produce not only the 7.62 mm Ishapur rifle, Belgium design, but also the very same things which we are importing now. I would like to know from the Defence Minister as to what is the total import content of our defence expenditure. Parliament ought to know this. When we vote such a colossal figure as Rs 6,000 crores for expenditure and a colossal amount of precious foreign exchange on importing equipment, Parliament ought to be kept in mind, it has to be taken into confidence, and told as to what is the total import content of our defence expenditure.

Before I conclude, I want to say this. It is not only important due to historical reasons, we have been and rightly so placing a lot of emphasis on the development of our army, but in the changing horizons it is also very important that our naval capability should be built up. Dr. Swamy, while speaking the other day, talked about our submarine fleet and nuclear propulsions. Well, in cases like this it is better that we leave the choice to the Defence Ministry and our defence strategic experts rather than involving ourselves in this kind of debate. If necessary and if it is important that we go in for nuclear propulsions, then it should be done. But in any case we cannot afford to take a slack view on the developments in the Indian ocean. In a fundamental sense, that is the long range implication of threat across the Ocean and from the Ocean. Because of the changing requirements of war machines and the global strategic environment, highest priority should be given to our naval capability. There was some talk, and it was announced, that there would be a Naval Academy in Kerala, in Ezhimalai. But recently last week I have seen some statements from certain teams — I do not know whether they are asked by the Minister to make such statements and whether it was warranted — that we will have to look for other places. I would like him to clarify this issue because it is an issue which is agitating the minds of People.

Now I want to say this before I conclude. In a fundamental sense, China has been a factor which altered our thinking on many things and particularly changed our perspective on our defence needs, which completely changed the entire economic development pattern since 1967. But I remember at that time—and I happened to read it again a little while ago—General Thimmayya saying that there is fundamentally no answer to this threat other than through political and diplomatic means. I am not the least suggesting that we should surrender our rights or our sovereignty or should compromise on anything.

13.00 hrs.

— But this is very important in the present context of developments and with the



dialogue between Soviet Union and China and I was also told that Soviet Union is asking Vietnam to settle with China and I do not see any reason why India should also not settle with China or that China should not settle with India. So it is very important to keep these factors in mind when we approach this problem. I have no doubt that if it is not done in the near future, it may not be possible at all to achieve any kind of understanding with China and that would be a permanent load on the future generations which may not be forgotten. I am one of those in this very House who have been very sensitive on this point and almost said that we should not have it unless they surrendered. But the more I think about it, the more I think that it is very important that in terms of our future defence needs and requirements, in the overall national interests both from the point of view of defence, our security interests and our economy, we should move in fast in the direction that Gen. Thimmayya has suggested at that time.

**DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur) :** In the very, brief time at my disposal I will deal with only one element in this defence debate which I think is of great importance and that is the problems of defence pensioners. This is important because of three reasons. Firstly, because of their long and meritorious services rendered in the most difficult conditions. You must have visited places like Kargil or places like Arunachal Pradesh where the living is very difficult and it is almost impossible for a human being to survive. There also our Defence personnel have given the best years of their lives. So we owe it to them to see that their interests are safeguarded.

Secondly, the rising cost of living which has adversely affected all sections and also the pensioners along with the decline in their own physical and mental powers as they grow older. This is really a very important case.

Thirdly, because of the impact on fresh recruitments. Let us not forget that the pensionary benefits which the Defence Ministry gives has an important impact on the type and calibre of people who join

the Defence Forces and, therefore, if you improve the pensionary benefits, you are not only doing the right thing by the pensioners but you are also helping to attract a better calibre of persons to the Defence Forces which is very important for the future. These three points I would like the Hon. Minister to kindly clarify in his reply.

In a historic decision the Supreme Court in its judgment of 17th December 1982 struck down the Government order that pension enhancement would affect only those people who retired after 1st April 1979. The Government issued an order which was struck down by a Five Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice and they have said that this is discriminatory and violative of Art 14 of the Constitution and that, therefore, it is illegal. Now I want a clear assurance from the Minister that the Government will accept this judgment with good grace and implement it speedily....

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** They are filing a review petition.

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Because it seems to me that instead of accepting it, the Government is now trying to delay the matter and trying to go back and get this unanimous verdict of the Supreme Court reversed. I would submit with all the emphasis at my command that it does not behave a government of this nature where six thousand crores of rupees are being spent and which we are now voting and you are not able to accept a Supreme Court unanimous verdict. This is very, very—I do not want to use any strong language because I am not in that habit...

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** This clarification should be sought from the Finance Minister. He is only Ex-Finance Minister.

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Ex-Finance Minister and present Defence Minister. I do not think it is fitting. I do not think it is appropriate for the Government to be have in this fashion. I would urge him to please accept it with good grace and implement it.

Secondly, there is the problem of commutation of pension.

When a Defence personnel retires, fifty per cent of his pension commuted over the next ten years can be commuted and paid in cash so that he can settle down. What happens? Life is increasing; longevity is increasing. Government not only recovers what it has given but some times even two to three times more. I will give you one instance. One Hira Singh, a subedar, retired in 1946. He received Rs. 3700 and Government has already got back Rs 8250 and he is permanently crippled. Similarly a major living in Jullunder—General Saheb will bear me out—retired in 1963; he was paid Rs. 38,250; more than Rs. 50,000 he has paid back to them. Sir, what is this? Is it not possible to have a Cut-off date? If these pensioners live (as we hope they will) upto a certain age, is it not the duty of the Government to restore the pension after that money has been recovered? All right, put on a little interest if you like but give it back ultimately. And I understand that the Petitions Committee has made a very strong recommendation to this effect. That is the second point that I would make. And the third and final point is this. I have mentioned this earlier. The Resettlement programmes are not going on satisfactorily; and the reservations which are meant for ex-servicemen are not always available to them. I had suggested that instead of only a Director General of Resettlement, there should be a full-fledged Resettlement Commission which would be given this task of ensuring that the resettlement goes better and the reservations that are kept for ex-servicemen are actually filled.

I would be grateful if the Hon. Minister could clarify these points.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :** It is a pity that when such an important thing is being discussed (involving nearly a sum of Rs. 6000 crores) an overwhelming majority of members are having coffee in the hall outside; nobody has bothered to listen to what the Defence Minister has to say...

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :** That shows they have full confidence in me,

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** In you? You would prefer us to walk out also, and remain out, to show our confidence?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** In being absent from the House there is no opposition and ruling party here; all are alike; there is no difference.

**SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :** Proportionately we are more.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** In absenteeism, all are one, both sides.

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :** Sir, at the outset I wish to express my gratitude to all the political parties for the unanimous support which they have given to this Demand.

The Debate has demonstrated that whatever our differences in other matters, whatever our emphasis in respect of certain items, on the issue of national security and national defence the country stands solidly together and that it will stand together like this in any eventuality. We have demonstrated this today in our Debate. The fact that a few people are here or not here does not matter because the points of view have been expressed by the leaders of the party or the representatives of the party and it shows that all the political parties today have fully endorsed the Demands for Defence today. This does not mean that there are no differences of opinion to all. Certainly there are differences in emphasis; there are differences with regard to approach and there are differences with regard to perceptions and it should be so. After all, it is only by mutual exchange of thought and ideas that we can make progress. It will be a sad world if all of us agreed with everybody. It will be a mad house indeed if everyone agreed with everybody else. Then, what is there to discuss? What is there to speak? What is there to think of? Therefore, it is appropriate that we must have different points of view force fully expressed on the subject. I am happy to say that we have received a wealth of ideas during the course of this Debate. I am well aware that it has been an easy task to defend the Demands for Grants in this House. At the same time, it is a most difficult task

perhaps the most onerous task to defend the country. Therefore I must exercise all the ability that the Government has in seeing that the defence of the country is maintained at its peak efficiency and that no quarter is given to complacency of any kind. In fact Mr. Indrajit Gupta in the course of his speech said that there is a suspicion that the Government have taken this matter of defence with an amount of complacency and that they have not fully appreciated the threat perspective in the present context. Well, I want to assure him, in fact I want to emphasise, that the Government are fully aware of the danger, the security environment, the threat perspective that the country is facing and it is preparing itself to meet any contingency that may arise as a result of activities not of our making but of others and other powers and other Governments.

Now, Sir, I will briefly mention what our defence policy is. We are committed to non-alignment and peace. We have no territorial ambitions and we do not want to take any part of anybody's land and therefore we can assure all our neighbours that as far as we are concerned, we have absolutely no territorial ambitions and we do not propose or do not even entertain, even this slightest idea of having any claim whatsoever on any other country's land or territory.

Secondly, we do not seek to assume the mantle of leaderships on any group or of any region or of, any area. Whenever one assumes the role on the title of leadership in a particular area, then he starts working towards it, with the result he creates situations in which either he pushes himself forward to the detriment of the interests of others or creates a situation in which he will be recognised as a leader of the area. Sir, I again repeat that we have no such ambitions whatsoever. We do not propose, we do not seek the mantle of leadership of any area and therefore our activities will not cause any disturbance to anybody around us or in any part of our region.

Thirdly, we are committed to the principle of settlement of all issues and disputes by peaceful negotiations and that

again must assure all our neighbours and all our other countries that our preparations and our defence policies will not in any way impinge on their security, on their sovereignty and so on. But unfortunately it is a fact of history that nations committed to peace are not immune from aggression by other countries. Even as a person who observes the rules of the road is not immune from traffic accident because someone else violates the rules of the road and causes an accident. Even so, countries which are committed to peace and do not want to create any situations but want to settle all their disputes in a peaceful manner may yet be drawn or forced into a situation in which they will become the victim of aggression. Therefore, merely professing or protesting to the world that we have peaceful intentions, that we have no territorial ambitions, etc. will not absolve us of the responsibilities of maintaining our defence at the peak level of efficiency in order that we may guard our national integrity as well as the territorial sovereignty.

That is why, when we found that the environment was slightly changing to our detriment, the Prime Minister, as the then Defence Minister, immediately called for a revision of the Defence Five Year Plan. The original Plan of 1979-84 was revised and updated into 1980-85 Plan. Unfortunately, I cannot give you the figures, but I can tell the House, and take the House into confidence to this extent, to say that we have provided in the updated new 1980-85 Plan for all requirements to meet the situation that might arise as a result of the change in the environment around us and also to make us feel confident that our position will not be threatened in any manner.

Now, this has been done and the process is going on. I will deal with each one of these aspects and will come to that a little later, but at the present moment, I wish only to say that we have taken full note of this; we are not in any way feeling over confident. On the contrary, we have made provisions for a larger investment in defence on account of the change in the security environment.

Now, what is the security environment ? India has no direct threat from any industrialised powers of the world, but then the industrialised powers of the world have in their programme of security arrangements in certain regions included our neighbours in what they call the strategic consensus, and are supplying them with arms and equipment which are far far in excess of the country's own defence requirements. To put it bluntly, the United States has included in its strategic consensus Pakistan and has in pursuance of that policy provided Pakistan with artillery, with aircraft, with naval vessels, submarines etc. which are far in excess of the requirements of that country for the defence of that country. In explanation it was stated that in order to defend Pakistan against a situation arising in Afghanistan, United States was giving all these equipments. I wonder, how submarines and warships can help Pakistan in defending themselves against Afghanistan. This is obvious. By giving them equipment, military weaponry and sophisticated armament not related to the needs which they profess, but very much more in excess, it creates a situation, in which our own security is threatened.

As I said elsewhere, if my neighbour stores gun-powder on his side, the natural reaction for me would be to store gun-powder also on my side. But I am not doing it. I must at least have the liberty to have a fire-engine on my side so that it may quench any accidental fire that may take place. And it is our strategy, therefore, to see that such of those equipment and weaponry which the neighbour is getting is met by sufficient weaponry on our side so that we are not taken or caught unawares. We do not know once a conflagration starts what will happen in the area. Then all these questions about saying that this weapon is intended only for defence against one country will have no meaning. At any rate the scientists have not yet invented an artillery which will shoot only in one direction. It will certainly be used against everybody. And in this context, therefore, we have got to be prepared and we have got to take note of the situation and arm ourselves to the best of our ability.

At the same time, I want to repeat that we will not spare any effort to create an atmosphere of peace and goodwill towards Pakistan and will try to improve and normalise our relations with them. We will take advantage of the offer which has come from Pakistan and negotiate for a peaceful settlement of all issues. Actually we are now engaged in the process of establishing a joint commission and none of these efforts will in any way be reduced.

But at the same time, while we pray to God, we must also keep our powder dry.

Now, I have to take note of the situation in the North East.

So far as China is concerned, Hon. Members are aware that the new Chinese policy, which has been now enunciated expresses a desire to establish normally between India and China. We fully reciprocate the desire of China to have normal and friendly relations with them. At the same time, we cannot but fail to take note of some discordant notes or sounds which appear from time to time with regard to the border situation. Therefore, as I said, while we are hoping that there will be a friendly and peaceful solution of the differences between our two countries on a small matter like a border issue, we cannot take for granted that the situation is now completely free from any threat perspective. We have, therefore, to take note of this and also arrange for the same. When I come to the weapons, I will have to refer to this, because a number of questions have been asked why certain kinds of weapons have been purchased. That is why I am laying the foundation for this.

So far as the Indian Ocean is concerned. Hon. Members have themselves stated very clearly that it has become, instead of a zone of peace. As we wanted a scene of rivalry, and a number of battle-ships, submarines and all kinds of vessels are now going criss-crossing in the Indian Ocean.

And our off-shore installations like the Bombay High, our exclusive economic zone and also our island territories of Andamans

as well as Lakshadweep have become vulnerable. Our responsibility to take care, and defend these areas has become greater on account of the threat perception in the Indian Ocean. The situation, therefore, has called for a certain amount of emphasis on the development of our Navy.

All these things, when added up, really came to an astronomical figure for the Defence of all these areas—the north-west, the north-east, the north, Indian Ocean and all these things. Therefore, when Hon. Members said that every rupee spent should be utilized to the best advantage, I entirely agree with them. It will be the endeavour of the Government to see that we get the best results for every paisa, leave alone every rupee spent on defence.

A large number of Members have participated in the discussion. On the Government side, Shrimati Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat, my esteemed friend Gen. Sparrow, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Shrimati Kaur, Shri Mishra, Shri Dogra, Shri Rajesh Pilot, Shri Parashar, Acharya Bhagwan Dev and Shri Uttam Rathod have made very valuable contributions. I will be dealing with the points raised by them in general; and if there are any specific points, I will come to them individually. On the other side, Shri Hannan Mollah who is a member of the Consultative Committee, Shri Bhogendra Jha, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy—I am surprised he is not here—Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Shri Negi, Shri Daya Ram Shakya and Shri Jakkayan all participated and gave some very valuable suggestions.

I shall deal with certain broad aspects first. I agree with Mr. Unnikrishnan that this is the only opportunity in a year to deal with one of the most important subjects of our Government; and, therefore, I shall not only merely reply to the debate, but will go further and give a picture of the defence situation in our country. The first thing I would like to mention is that the grim prospect before us will be better understood if I give from the military balance for the year 1982-83, the kind of weapons which Pakistan is now having in its armoury. I will not give the numbers.

But here, there is nothing secret. It is in this book.

They are : F-16, Mirage-3 and 5, improved MIG-19, T-37C aircraft and M-48 tanks. They have got 155 mm. towed guns. They have got also 155 mm. self-propelled variety. They have anti tank-missiles carrying helicopters and 203 mm. guns.

They have a very impressive array of equipment and it is therefore necessary for us to make our defence equally strong, equally effective and to some extent a little better than what they have; because they have to defend only a small border whereas India has to defend a very larger border. Any conflagration in any one part of the country may not be confined to that part, but may lead to conflagration in other parts also so that our Defence cannot take it granted that if there is trouble only in North-West it will be confined to North-West; it may lead to conflagration on other sides, and we have got to prepare ourselves for defence on all sides, if there is one attack or one trouble in one area.

So, we are now going ahead with our army plan and Army will now be equipped with the most modern and sophisticated weapon system so as to maintain superiority in the battle-field. We are upgrading the Vijayanta Tank. Shri Indrajit Gupta said that it was a tank to be discarded in 1984. Now, it is not going to be discarded; it is being upgraded. We are having a new armour which I have mentioned is the best in the world. This *Kanchan* armour can be fitted to any tank including the Vijayanta Tank and, therefore, we will be fitting our tanks with an armour the like of which nobody so far has. It may be that somebody else will come up with something better. But, today, nobody has it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have we got production facilities ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, I have taken note of every one of the words mentioned by every one of the members. We have established Pilot production facilities. The raw materials are available in



our country and it is really a feather in the cap of our Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Apart from the Vijayanta Tank armour with which we are going forward, the other systems in Vijayanta Tank will also be upgraded. We will be having more effective ammunition and other improved sub-systems.

The second line is the T-72 Tanks. Now, I don't have to dwell at length on this T-72 tank because my esteemed friend, General Sparrow, who himself is a General, who commanded the Tank, has given a certificate that T-72 is far superior to the tank which Dr. Subramaniam Swamy mentioned in the course of his speech. Dr. Subramaniam Swamy—I am sorry, he is not present in the House; otherwise, I would like to make a joke—his information is penultimate and not the last. All the information he gave to the House is just one stage behind the present development; and this penultimate information has put him always in the wrong. (Shri Madhavrao Scinida : Always put him in the penultimate position. This T-72 Tank, as General Sparrow has said, has got all the capabilities and that is also being upgraded.

After all, the Soviet Union is one of the biggest powers in the world. They are technologically superior to many countries in the world. They are feared; they are respected; and it is not for people who read magazines to criticise the performance of various types of equipment which are produced by experts in that field. At any event, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, when we go for purchase of this equipment, we have an Assessment Committee, consisting of the users, namely, the Army, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, and the Director-General, Inspection. All these people test these things and then we order for this kind of instruments and weapons. Now, you can read some newspapers or you can read some magazine and then say that such and such a thing is good, or it is not good, or that is bad. But as a Defence Minister, I have to rely not on the opinion

expressed in journals, but on the expert advice of my Chiefs who are answerable to me for the performance of the equipment which they advise me to buy. Therefore, it is very important that we go by their advice.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) : They should also read the journals.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They will not read these journals; they will read other journals; they will read technical journals, that is what I mean.

Now, we are developing this MBT, the Main Battle Tank. A number of Members criticised this Main Battle Tank. They said, "Seven years have passed, eight years have passed, you have not done anything." In fact, I was surprised that a well-informed Member like Shri Madhavrao Scindia said that it is a dismal failure. I want to remind the House and the Members that it took sixteen years for West Germany to develop their Leopard tank, it took 18 years for America to develop their XM tank and you ask me to bring out a tank like a rabbit out of the hat, like a magician, and say, 'in seven years you have not done anything, and you denigrate our people who are working at it? I am very sorry. In fact, you seem to have an impression that Research and Development is something like buying a platform ticket through an automatic vending machine. You put the coin in the slot and draw something. On the contrary, you may put a lot of money and you may not get anything at all! And you may not put in much money and yet you may get a break through. All that I can assure the House is, we are doing persistent work on the Main Battle Tank and we are having a measure of success in all the other areas. For instance, in the suspension : The Main Battle Tank will have a hydro-pneumatic suspension. It will have the latest comparable sophistication. Now, we are working on all these things and we have made slow progress. Where we are stuck up is in the engine. It is true, that Hon. Members said that 'we have so many scientists and



we have so many brilliant people in the country, can you not make it? It is true, we have a large number of scientists. But we do not have the industrial engineering infrastructure in the country to precisely convert these scientific ideas into designs. That is the weakness in the country; and that is why we are not able to do it. Everybody knows how to make enriched uranium. You only have to rotate uranium in the cast, at 50,000 r.p.m. and, then the uranium gets enriched. Everybody knows; everybody will say. Any student of science will say But, who will make that instrument which will rotate at 50,000 r.p.m. (in one minute) and be able to bring that kind of engineering, into existence? That is the thing! We are not able to do it. There are other countries which have not been able to do it. There are only very few countries which have been able to do it.

Therefore, it is not merely a question of having a scientist, but it is a question of having the infrastructure, the industrial engineering infrastructure, for translation of ideas into designs. It is that we do not have; we are trying to fill up the gap. Therefore, I would plead with my friends to give a little more encouragement to those who are working in the most difficult field of developing an engine. A few countries have developed engines. Many of the countries have gone and bought engines from other countries. Therefore, the attempt which we are making for the last nine years to develop an MBT must receive the fullest support from all of us, so that we march ahead in the areas of a sophisticated modern comparable tank.

We are also going to have the infantry combat vehicle. The thing will be first imported. Then it will be manufactured. The factory will be established in Medak near Hyderabad. We are developing anti-tank missile. It will be introduced first and then produced under licence. Then we will have the communication system in the Army modernised with greater computerisation in the field. These are some of the areas in which we are progressing already fast. I have no doubt that when I come here again, I mean, the Minister of Defence,

with the proposal—this is a part of reply to Mr. Pilot's question also—you can ask as to what has been done to many thing which we have said that we will do.

(Interruptions)

So far as the Navy is concerned, in 1978-79, the amount allotted to it was Rs. 261.88 crores. Today in 1983-84, we have allotted Rs. 680 crores. But the expenditure on the Navy does not really reflect the actual acquisition of ships and other equipment. The reason is that it takes time to manufacture a ship where our manufacturing is involved. Therefore, when we start a new thing, we will be spending a small amount. Secondly and more importantly, when we buy ships from abroad, our down payment is only 1/15th. We make 1/15th payment two year after we get the ship. Therefore, the result is that the value of the vessels physically in your possession is far in excess than the amount you have allocated in that year's budget. Therefore, when you say that the Budget allocation is 11 per cent or so, it does not really reflect the amount of vessels and other equipment we will be buying in that year.

Therefore, you cannot judge from this, whereas if you buy, for instance, ammunition, the whole thing has to be paid for immediately. In certain other cases, you have to pay immediately the whole amount but in the case of Naval vessels, since the payment is spread over a number of years the amount which is allocated in that year is only a small part of the total assets which we have acquired in that year.

Now, I will give you a brief idea of what we are going to get. From indigenous construction, we will have advanced frigates—the S.S.K. (Submarine to Submarine Killer) Submarine and corvettes. Additionally Mazagaon Docks will produce Missile boats Seaward Defence Boats, and other Vessels. One Seaward Defence Boat has been delivered.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What about radar ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will come to that. Why are you in a hurry? You don't want to know what is currently being done we will be producing Mine Hunters, Survey Vessels, Torpedo Recovery Vessels and so on. I won't give information with regard to imports because there will be a herdle of people coming and...

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :  
Missile from Israel.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Subramaniam Swamy has been bitten by the Israeli bug.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : But not by Jethmalani.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But the Garden Reach Workshop is in a bad shape.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will give you that. When I deal with the public sector units, I will deal with that. Our Research and Development Wing has developed an indigenous sonar system and preliminary trials have shown encouraging results. About the Fleet Air Arms, we have six Islanders deployed in the Andamans. This will provide reconnaissance cover in that area. As you know, we have an aircraft carrier and are acquiring certain number of Sea Carriers.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You have only one aircraft carrier.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : But other people in this area do not have even that. We are the only person having an aircraft carrier.

We will have to get and we propose to get missile-frigates, missile-boats, mine-sweepers, etc. to strengthen our Navy. We have developed the A.P. SOM Sonar System and it has been installed in our Leander class frigates. We are also going to have a long range maritime patrol aircraft the

IL 38—and this will help very much in our patrolling the areas—the far flung areas outside.

One other point was made by Shri Subramaniam Swamy and has been repeated by some other people also, that we should go in for nuclear-powered submarines.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Show some guts there.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : My answer is we reserve the option.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What does that mean, that Mr. Venkataraman's mind looks like a cat's mind.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : I had mentioned generally about nuclear-powered vessels, not just submarines. Are you contemplating this?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is not a matter which can be discussed.

When I say I reserve the option, I mean this question is open, that is all.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Tomorrow the international Press will only carry this.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The next subject which I would like to deal with is Air Force. Here again I will meet some of the points which have been raised by some of the hon. Members. We have got the Jaguars. We bought 40 in fly-away condition, 45 we are assembling and another 31 we are going to manufacture in raw-material phase and then close. After that we are not going further, the reason being that by the time this is finished, the new aircrafts would have come.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They would have become obsolete

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes. But, at the moment, that will be far of 2000 AD. But at the moment Jaguar is the best deep penetration strike aircraft.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : So you support the Janata decision.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But Janata is not your decision.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I was under my influence.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I mentioned earlier about our northern borders. Unless we have deep penetration strike aircraft, we cannot go far beyond the northern areas. That is why this assumes importance.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Northern or western ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : North and north-eastern.

*(Interruptions)*

I have said a lot of things in your absence about a country to which you seem to be so much committed.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I hope it is as a joke. Otherwise, I will have to get up and answer, which will be struck off the record.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The word "committed" is not offensive. If you want to say you are not committed, we may strike it off.

Our answer to F-16 is Mirage 2,000. Here again, the information of my hon. friend, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, is penultimate. The latest assessment of these two aircrafts is that they are just of the same class as F-16, and they have certain other advantages over F-16, contrary to his opinion. It has a multi-mode radar; it can look up and shoot and look down and shoot. He told the House that it cannot do this. Now this aircraft has been brought for the purpose of giving confidence to our airman that we have something which is a match to what the others have and, after the contract has been entered into, it has given a lot of inspiration amongst our Air Force that we are having today a much better one, at least something on which they

can rely as being equal, if not superior, to what the other person has.

So far as the option for manufacture is concerned, we have not decided and we will take the decision later. It would depend on a number of factors, the most important factor being, what is going to be the kind of futuristic aircraft that will be available to us. As you know, F-16 and Mirage have only one engine. It is possible somebody may come up with a double engine. Therefore, it is not possible to make any decision on this now; it will depend upon the kind of futuristic improvements which are going to be made in this kind of aircraft.

In addition, we have the improved versions of MIGs. I want to assure the House that while Pakistan has got F-16, or rather USA has got F-16, the British the Jaguar and the Soviets the MIG we have all the three in our country.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I hope you do not confuse the pilots.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am sure it will confuse men like Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, but it will not confuse the pilots. Each one has its distinct characteristics. Therefore, there is no question of confusion. One is a deep penetration aircraft; the other is an aircraft with agility; the third is a combat aircraft. Therefore, each one is required in a special situation. So, there is no question of any confusion arising in anybody's mind.

And we are having the weapons system of air-to-air missiles and surface-to-air missiles and naturally, air-to-surface missiles etc.

One point was raised about the transport aircraft. It is true that our old aircrafts, particularly the transport aircrafts, are becoming less serviceable, they are over-aged. That is the position now. And here we are going ahead with purchase of AN-32 aircraft for transport and we do hope that we will be able to further increase our transport fleet in the course of the next two years.

I will now deal with the R & D part of it. Mr. Swamy said that there has been an electronic starvation in the three Services. I wish to inform him that it is not correct to say that our Navy has inferior radars and they are incapable of meeting advanced electronic threats. It is totally incorrect.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What is correct then ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wait.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If Mr. Swamy knows anything at all about radars, he knows that if the other side knows the frequency, they can jam it, they can spoil it. Therefore, you cannot persuade me to say what we have. We are really going, we are racing now.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : If you want, I will tell you the Chinese frequency. You jam on a band of frequencies, then you will get it by chance.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are working on a band of radars and I have full details, but I won't give you. If you believe me, if you believe in the Government, I want you to merely take it that Mr. Subramaniam Swamy has been ill-informed on the question of radars. That is all I would like to say.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : But how can you say this much that nothing will be left undetected ? To that extent we are prepared for the radars ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will tell you some of the things which are not of that sophisticated nature. We have worked on an indigenously developed airborne identification system, IFF—Identification, Friend or Foe. This is what we have done, we have put it in our aircraft, We have also surveillance and tracking radars for meeting the sea-skimming missiles. I will deal with it separately when I come to it.

So far as the main radar is concerned, the R & D is working on a number of projects. The battle-field surveillance radar, the

filed artillery radar, the multi-mode radar and the secondary surveillance radar, IFF. Therefore, I want to inform the House that they should not be misled by what Mr. Subramaniam Swamy has said.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Are you going to court-martial me after this debate ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If you were in my Services, I would have done it long ago.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Thank God for that.

(Interruption)

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : So far as missiles are concerned, we are developing anti-tank missiles. (Interruptions). And we are also developing a low level and quick reacting surface-to-air missiles. These are the two things which we are working on.

14-00 hrs.

So far as the aero-engines are concerned, we have been working on the GIX for some years. Here I confess we have not made any breakthrough. But, nevertheless, we have been working at it. We do hope that we will be able to achieve some success. Actually, if you look at the aero-engines developed in U.K. and U.S.A., the aero-engines took 12 to 20 years and that too in association with other developed-countries. So, I placed for patience and do not ask for results over-night.

I shall briefly say a few words about our ordnance factories. Production in the ordnance factories has been steadily increasing. The value has increased from Rs. 556 crores in 1978-79 to Rs. 789 crores in 1981-82 and in the current year it is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 860 crores.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur) : I would like to know when are you going to modernise Ishapore and Cossipore Ordnance Factories.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** You write a letter to me. I will give you a detailed reply.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :** With a copy to me.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** I also want to point out that the productivity linked bonus has also gone up to those people. They got 24 days bonus in 1980-81. Previously 15 days bonus was paid on ad hoc basis. In 1981-82 they got 25 days productivity linked bonus and this year in 1982-83 they have got 29 days productivity linked bonus. This shows that their production has been going up and their performance is very good. We are producing 130 mm ammunition, 23 mm gun ammunition and we are going to have armoured personnel carrier in Medak.

So far as the public sector units are concerned, they have also shown steady improvement. HAL, BEL, BELM, and MDL all these have been making profits; three units which are making losses are the Garden Reach, The Bharat Dynamics and MIDHANI. So far as Garden Reach is concerned, it entered into a very bad contract for the supply of ships to the Shipping Corporation of India at the prices at which even sailing boats cannot be made. As a result of it, it has incurred colossal losses. The unfortunate position is that the accumulated losses are weighing down heavily in this. I want to inform the House that this is one of the best shipyards. It has a capacity to build very big vessels. We shall try to pull it up; may be, we may even have to change the management. We will pull it up and we shall see that it is made viable. The Bharat Dynamics and MIDHANI they are doing particularly sophisticated type of work. We cannot say that they will make profit. It is in MIDHANI that we plan to produce Kanchan armour. Therefore, the results which they produce as a consequence of the new and innovative work which they undertake, is indeed the reward rather than the price and the profit they get.

I am sorry. I have taken a lot of time. I shall now briefly go through some of the

points which have been raised by hon. Members. Of course, I have very little to say on that because I have covered most of them in the course of the general reply which I have given.

I am sorry. Earlier, I said, the Shipping Corporation. It was given to Moghul Lines and not to Shipping Corporation.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) :** Before you go into details, as a matter of policy, I want to know one thing. We are spending a lot of money on Defence. How much we are spending on import times and how much we are spending here for the manufacture of weapons. For how much amount, we are importing. That is the most important thing.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** I raised that question about the total import content.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :** The Minister should say something about it.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** If you put a Question, I will answer with all details. If you put a Question, we will give you all details. You can put supplementaries also. It is easier.

**SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur) :** No it is difficult.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :** I have never found you so defensive. You are always good at giving information. You can give.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** It has to be collected.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** I have raised this question about the total import content.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It cannot be given, at present. It has to be collected from various agencies. Therefore, I said...

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : Will you lay it on the Table of the House ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : All right.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : We are requesting you. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : At your convenience.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : But we will not give the details as to from where we import these things.

*(Interruptions)*

We will not give details of what we import.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : No, no Dr. Swamy is telling confidently that you are importing from Israel.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We will not give all those details.

We will give only how much in money that we are importing. Certainly, we will give that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Fair enough.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Dr. Subramaniam Swamy has said that we have no defence against the sea skimming missiles. He has the EXOCIT in his mind. We have four basic systems :

Long range detection of the missile. A missile to destroy the missile. An electric system to decoy the missile from its target.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : That I did not know.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : And there are very rapid fire guns, i.e, quick firing guns which can hit the missile before it reaches the target. I hope you will be satisfied.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I would like to see a demonstration of it.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Not to you. *(Interruptions)* If you put yourself as a target, I do not mind giving a demonstration.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : He will be another decoy.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, he should be used as the missile and then you have to see...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Shri Indrajit Gupta asked one question about Hindustan Monark ? There is nothing in it. I am sorry you have...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I have asked more than one question.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I have answered all that. If you look at the reply which I gave yesterday, you will find it. Please, you read that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Why don't you import from the Soviet Union ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The only point is I want to give an addition to what I have said yesterday since the integrity of the Government is challenged and that is why, I give this information, otherwise, I would not, is this.

We require about 6 lakhs, number of these shells. The Ordnance Factories have the sanctioned capacity to produce 4.8 lakhs. There is a gap of 1.2 lakhs and the D.G.T.D. has given licence to others to manufacture



these shells and they have given permission to import the machinery for the purpose of manufacturing this in this country. This is how the licences for import of machinery were given. Therefore, on account of the gap, we have to buy it from others. We bought it from the lowest tenderer.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You should have got from the Soviet Union.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This is not a new item, I suppose. That is, forging for 105 m.m. guns. Surely, it is not a new item.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No. I have not said so.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That means, the forging capacity does exist in this country.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is 4.8 lakhs.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We have been using it all these years.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Please sit down. I will again explain what I have said.

We never give these figures. Because you raised this. I am giving it. The requirement is 6 lakhs; the capacity is 4.8 lakhs. That is, there is a gap of 1.2 lakhs shells required for the country. The private people went to the DGTD to get licences for the import of this machinery for the manufacture of these shells. The Defence Ministry did not come into the picture. After they got these licences, they came to this that they will supply 1.2 lakhs according to the tender and the tender that we chose was the lower tender.

I also want to make it clear that we in the Defence Ministry do not deal with agents. We deal only with the principals.

In fact, if somebody says that he is an agent of somebody, we do not deal with him. We only deal with the principals, the actual manufacturers. We do not deal with agents.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The confusion arises when you deal with blacklisted firms.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It was not a blacklisted firm. You are imagining very many things.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : It was blacklisted in the Soviet Union.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : You may have some prejudices. After all, as I said yesterday in the House, I am bound by the financial code. The financial code requires me to buy from the lowest tenderer. And I have bought it from the lowest tenderer. You are beating a dead horse, I am sorry to say that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Has the company got a factory, a producing unit, of its own ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Please read the speech that I made yesterday. I cannot again go through the whole thing. I mentioned all these things yesterday. I gave all these facts yesterday in my statement.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : You may be thinking that we are beating a dead horse. But we will make it alive. We have requested the Hon. Speaker to allow a full fledged discussion on this.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : You are capable of resuscitating dead bodies. I am afraid, your capacity, your excellence is only in that art.

I have already mentioned about the Vijayanta tank about which he raised and

I said that the Kandan armour can be fitted there.

Shri Indrajit Gupta raised the question of a unified Command, having one unified Defence Chief. I have during the debate in the other House clearly explained the position. There are some countries in the world which have a unified Defence Chief, a unified Command, and there are other countries which have the same system as ours, a coordinated Command. There are different views on this matter. Some people may say that this is better and some other people may say that is better. Even in America, where they have a unified Command, there is an opinion now that this is not really the best.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :  
Dangerous.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Not dangerous. They say, it is not the best. This is the kind of opinion that is prevailing and nobody can say who is right. I have never said in any meeting or anywhere that my opinion is the correct one or anything of the sort. All that I said is that this coordination which we have established in our country has stood the test of time and events. We have fought two wars in 1965 and 1971 and it has proved itself to be effective. Therefore, as I said, we do not want to make a change unless we are obliged and compelled to change that opinion. Therefore, I do not think that, merely because certain opinion prevails that a unified Command is better, we should go in for it and give up what has been serving us in very good stead all these years in our country.

Shri Rajesh Pilot mentioned a number of things, particularly about the transport aircraft, the Jaguar, the Mirage and all that. I have dealt with each one of them and I have also mentioned about the transport aircraft, how we are going to induct AN 32. We will be replacing the packet and the Dakota shortly. He also mentioned about the 105 field gun. I wish to inform him that we have established a capacity for produc-

tion in our country and regular bulk production is now going on of 105 Indian field gun. He can now appreciate that what I said has been fulfilled.

With regard to Vijayanta tank, we are trying several engines, the Leyland, the Kirloskar Cummins the Rolls Royce etc. We have to decide, after various trials, which of them would be suitable.

Prof. Narain Chand Parashar and Shri Uttam Rathod raised questions relating to recruitment. I find from the figures that in spite of change in the policy, there has not been much change in the number of people recruited from various States. In fact, you will find that the number is more or less equal. It is not very different. But the change in policy is necessary because every part of India must have a right to be represented in the army and nobody should say that "We are a martial race, and therefore, we should have a preference." Every facility and every encouragement will be given to those who have prowess, who have the inclination, the aptitude and all that. This is tested by the enrolment. But we would not say it should be reserved for certain people only. It should be open to everybody and selection should be on merit and that is being done. It has not caused any great harm to anybody. I do not want to take all the figures which I have.

But I would like to assure you that recruitment has been very fair to all the States including those which had at one time a higher rate of recruitment.

If you want I will give the figures and once again illustrate the point with figures. For instance, take Haryana. In Haryana, the recruitment before the new policy was 6.60%. After the policy, it is 8%. It has not gone down. It has gone up. Why? Because the people with aptitude are coming. But, we will not reserve anything for the particular class on the ground that they are martial races.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Very good.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : What about Bengal and Kerala ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If you want I will give you, all figures I have got.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : After the Marxists came, the Bengalis have lost their strength!

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : What about the existing castes and classes ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will give these figures. In Kerala, it was 4.73%. It has gone up now to 5.63%.

None of the people who have the aptitude suffer on that account.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What about Tamilnadu ?

SHRI V. VENKATARAMAN : Tamilnadu has no aptitude probably. What can you do when you and I represent Tamil Nadu ?

*(Interruptions)*

We have still retained the one class units such as Jat regiment and Sikh regiment but then, they are not confined to those people. Other people are now taken. It is only in name that it is being retained.

Mr. Jakkayan made some mistake while reading the Annual Report. He thought that the profit made by public sector undertakings was Rs. 61 crores but it was arrived at without making provision for tax. Anybody who understands how a balance sheet is struck knows that it is done only after making provision for depreciation and interest. So, this profit of Rs. 61 crores is after making that provision.

The BEML is really serving a very useful purpose for the Army because they are the people who are producing the trans-

mission system to our infantry combat vehicle.

Mr. Hannan Mollah raised a number of points. But the most important of them is relating to bonus. Out of 5,50,000 workers in Defence, according to the guidelines, 1,96,000 people are in the production units and 1,18,000 are in repair, ordnance, etc., and all these people get bonus; 3.14 lakhs of people get it. The balance 2.36 lakhs of people are not eligible under the present rules, but the matter is still being looked into and no decision has been taken.

He also mentioned about air accidents. Here I must confess, after having talked about all the achievements, with a sense of regret that the air accidents during 1982-83 have been fairly on the high side, and we are very sorry. Government had appointed a Committee known as the Lafontaine Committee to go into this question. In fact, we took up the matter immediately, as early as June-July and we appointed the Committee. The Committee has reported. We are examining this position. We must confess that there has been an increase in accidents this year. But we are taking steps to avert this kind of thing and we hope to take action in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

I am almost coming to the end of my rather marathon speech...

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You have revealed more than what you wanted.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I have to deal, lastly, with the points raised by Mr. Madhavrao Scindia. He raised a number of issues about amenities to the service personnel. The other points about the Army and Navy, I have dealt with, when I spoke generally about those various items. The most important thing which he has mentioned is about the amenities to the service personnel. I want to assure him that I am second to none in wishing to give to the army service personnel the best that we can afford. This is the first time in the annals of our defence history that a Rs. 31 crore packet was given in one instalment. At

the same time we will go on further examining the various requests that have come from the Chiefs of Staff and by and by, gradually, we will implement so that it does not make a serious impact on the finances in any one particular year. The emphasis is on different aspects : Some people want a certain kind of benefits and some others want a different kind of benefits. One has to choose carefully the kind of benefits that should be given. The idea of giving free ration and the separation allowance came to me when I visited the forces in the border, the extreme border. When I was talking to those people, they said that what they would like to have most was the ration and the younger officers said that that was the most important thing. So, that gave me an idea of what would really go to help them in their general conditions of service. We will be looking into all these things. I assure the House that we will continuously keep a watch over their requirements.

The last point I want to deal with is the question of pensions. Unfortunately, pensions is not within my jurisdiction. It is a matter for the Finance Minister and it affects everybody in the Government and whatever decision is taken will have to be applied to all the people in the entire government. It is not to be applied only to the Defence Forces. There are very serious implications of the decision of the Supreme Court and they are being examined and I am sure you will have plenty of opportunity when you discuss and debate the Finance Bill to make your point more effectively than you have done during this debate....

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Naval Academy.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I have got....

DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Government abide by the Supreme Court ruling ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Dr. Karan Singh asks me, 'Have you stopped beating your wife ?' .....

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shall I expunge it ? Please do not record it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Two important things I have raised. Have you taken a decision to give the Army its own helicopter wing which is very very necessary. Have you taken a decision or is it under consideration ?

Secondly, rural Ex-Servicemen need to be taken care of.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The next item is Ex-Servicemen. I have got all those points. I will deal with them so that people may not get up and ask questions. One is Ex-Servicemen. (2) Naval Academy and then third is helicopter.....

DR. KARAN SINGH : Then there is the commutation of pension.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : On pensions I will not be able to say anything because this is a matter which affects the entire pension system and only the Finance Minister will be able to take a decision on this point.... (Interruptions) You can take it up. You are as good a Member of Parliament as I am. ...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The quality of new recruits.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes - I will close with that.

Now, so far as the Ex-Servicemen are concerned, we have given them one very important concession which will go a long way to help them and that is that hitherto their pension was deducted from the salary which they got on re-employment. Suppose a person was getting a pension of Rs. 120 or Rs. 150 and he got employment on Rs. 400 then the pension was deducted and the balance of Rs. 280 alone he was getting. Nobody wanted to work for a pittance of

Rs. 280 for 30 days. Therefore, this was a disincentive to them to work and also a disincentive for future employment. We have taken a decision that upto Rs. 250 there will be no deduction; that is that they will get their pension plus the amount which they will get on employment. This is a major concession. ...

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Upto Rs. 250 on the salary or pension ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Rs. 250 of the pension.

This was very much appreciated and I have received a number of letters appreciating this. This really covers upto Junior Commissioned Officers. The second thing is that we have held a meeting of the Kendriya Sainik Board. We have requested the State Governments to implement the policy which we have already enunciated namely that there should be reservation of 14% , 21% and so on, but, unfortunately, the States are not falling in line. We have set up a monitoring cell. My colleague, Rajya Raksha Mantri, Mr. K. P. Singh Deo made a full and complete analysis of the various things. In fact, he is more conversant. ... I am told that JCOs and ORs' entire pension is exempted and this Rs. 250 is only for officers. The entire pension of JCOs and ORs is exempt.

In fact, my colleague has done a splendid job giving details of all the things which we have done for the welfare of ex-servicemen. He has rendered my job easier. I don't have to deal with the same subject again. In fact, he knows better than I do. His performance would have assured you that you do not lack another Defence Minister when time arises.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Is it a hint ?

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA : I think there is no further cabinet reshuffle...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to remind the Hon. Minister that

he said the same thing about Shri Maganbhai Barot some time ago.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is a Shakespearian expression — 'The fault Dear Brutus is not in our stars but in us that we are under-lings'.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I hope you don't quote from Lady Macbeth.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : So far as the point regarding helicopter wing is concerned, Government has at present no intention of changing the present system. As I have earlier the system which we have now is working satisfactorily. It is a matter for the three Chiefs to come to any arrangement and I have no say in the matter. I want to make it clear that so far as the strategy is concerned the Chiefs are supreme. So far as policy is concerned we come into the picture. Therefore, in respect of these things it is for the three Chiefs to come together and make a recommendation and we will accept. But if they don't come together and do not make a recommendation please do not put me into that embarrassing position of having to make a decision on a matter in which we have no competence, I must confess I have no competence.

Then I come to the last point about Naval academy. With all my effort I gave the Naval academy to Kerala. But I am getting innumerable telegrams saying that 'we do not want it'. There seems to be some local politics. But I want to tell you whatever they may say, my decision stands and, therefore, you don't have to say anything more on that.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISSANAN : Somebody whom you had sent issued a statement in Trivandrum saying that this is being reviewed. That is why I invited your attention. He said 'I am not used to demonstration or something of that kind'. But now it is clear.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There is a lot of objection. Innumerable telegrams are

coming. I think there must be some local politics there but so far as I am concerned my decision stands.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** What about my point about rural ex-servicemen? They are being totally ignored.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** I can't do everything in one year.

This is the first occasion when we have given Rs. 31 crores in one package.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** You have mis-understood me. I am not saying you give monetary benefits. What I am saying is that District administrations are not giving them priority in the problems they face when they go back to their villages. For example, dacoit Pan Singh, when he went back he found all his land is usurped. District administration would not listen and as such, he was driven into becoming dacoit.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** It is very much unlike for an ex-serviceman to become a dacoit.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Would you please give the district administration a directive?

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** If you say because he is an ex-serviceman he must be given a different kind of treatment from others it will be difficult to put it through in a democratic society but at the same time if you say that by virtue of the service that he has rendered he should be given certain privileges...

For instance, in respect of pension, in respect of this, that and the other, I am willing to do whatever is possible. But to say that merely because he is an ex-serviceman the law should be different, he should

be treated differently in law and soon is something which cannot be done.

Before I conclude, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to place on record the appreciation of Government for the excellent services rendered by the Chiefs of Staff and officers and the ranks. I have been to all the borders; I have been to areas where they serve under sub-zero temperature; I have seen them work in the Barracks and so on. They are doing a patriotic service of which the country must be proud. And I am quite sure that this unanimous approval which the the House has given will strengthen them in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

I thank the House for the very patient hearing that it has given to me. Thank you.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** A little while ago you promised to reply to that little point, — whether the quality of people is going down, is there my need to give an incentive to attract better people?

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** Well our experience is that there has been no fall in the standards. On the contrary, we have a large number of people, very qualified people, people up to the mark, we are unable to take them. It may be a reflection of the unemployment in the country, but to say that the quality is going down is not correct. In fact we get the best of them. In fact there is a certain tradition in certain things; persons who could go to the IAS and others do come only to the Services because their parents, their traditions, everything is there. They are the best of men; they have the qualities which the administrative officers have. And while these people are merely intellectually good, they are physically better and in fact they are put through a very difficult psychological test and they go through all of them. Therefore, I would not say that there is any semblance in the sort of suggestion that is made the quality of our officers is going down. It is very high and I am sure it will continue to be high. Thank you.



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motion moved by Shri Bhogendra Jha to the Demands of the Ministry of Defence to the vote of the House. Does the Hon. Member desire to have any of them put to vote separately? Otherwise, I will put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I have listened carefully to the reply of the Hon. Minister; he has not touched one single point which I raised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can only say whether you want any of your cut motions to be put to vote separately. He has taken more than one hour and forty-five minutes. He has replied; you must be satisfied.

Now unless Hon. Members desire that any of the cut motions should be put to vote

separately, I shall put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

*All the cut motions were put and negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I shall put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote.

The question is :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1984, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 18 to 23 relating to the Ministry of Defence”.

*The motion was adopted.*

Demands for Grants, 1983-84 in respect of the Ministry of Defence voted by Lok Sabha.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 18th March, 1983		Amount for Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE					
18.	Ministry of Defence	38,82,96,000	25,16,25,000	194,14,80,000	118,26,22,000
19.	Defence Services—Army	571,46,87,000	...	2857,34,33,000	...
20.	Defence Services—Navy	75,28,58,000	...	376,42,89,000	...
21.	Defence Services— Air Force	220,94,50,000	...	1104,72,50,000	...
22.	Defence Services — Pensions	73,37,67,000	...	366,88,33,000	...
23.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services		100.59,00,000		502,95,00,000