

J and K. The UN Observers have, therefore, no role to play. Since 1972, the UN Observers, although present on the India side of the Line of Control, are not performing any functions. Any violations of the Line of Control are discussed in meetings between the military commanders of India and Pakistan bilaterally at different levels.

(c) and (d). No specific amount of contribution is made to the United Nations by India in respect of these Observers.

[English]

**Pak Air Base in Occupied Kashmir**

5017. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT :

DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has constructed air base in Pak occupied Kashmir as reported in the Times of India dated the 7th March, 1986;

(b) if so, the name of the place where air base has been constructed;

(c) if so, whether any protest has been lodged with the Pakistan Government for constructing the air base equipped with sophisticated radars in Pak-occupied Kashmir, first of its kind in the northern frontier areas of Pakistan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of air bases Pakistan has constructed so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RAWALKOT.

(c) to (e). It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details on the subject.

**Construction of Bridges on Highway No. 44**

5019. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy vehicles cannot play on National Highway No. 44 (Assam-Agartala Road) because major permanent bridges have not been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation and as a result many projects of Oil and Natural Gas Commission and State Government are getting hampered;

(b) number of major bridges to be constructed on National Highway No. 44 and how many major bridges have been constructed so far since the Highway was handed over to the Border Roads Organisation in 1971;

(c) the reasons for delay in construction in major roads on Highway No. 44; and

(d) the scheme of the Border Roads Organisation to complete the construction of major permanent bridges on this Highway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). Assam Agartala road (National Highway No. 44) was taken over by Border Roads Organisation in 1971 for improvement and maintenance. Phase-I development of the road involved repairs to damages, widening of formation to single-lane National Highway specifications, strengthening of pavement to meet traffic intensity upto 450 vehicles per day and construction of permanent works. These works were completed by 1983-84 at a cost of about Rs. 25 crores.

Phase-II works involving strengthening of pavement to meet traffic intensity of 1500 vehicles per day, replacement of temporary bridges by permanent bridges and widening of road formation, were approved in April, 1984. These works are under execution on a phased manner.

There are 10 major bridges to be constructed to permanent specification. Border Road Organisation have drawn a scheme for construction of these bridges. According to this scheme, works have already commenced on two major bridges; works on four other major bridges will be taken up in 1986-87, on two other bridges in 1987-88 and on the remaining two bridges in 1988-89.