

(b) As per policy, the sites held under Old Grand Terms are to be resumed and utilised for Defence purposes, including construction of married accommodation for armed forces personnel.

#### Purchase of Aircraft Carrier

\*625. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to buy the aircraft carrier "HERMES" from the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, the present position of the transaction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Defence UK has offered HMS Hermes for sale to Government of India.

The contract has so far not been concluded.

#### Reported Killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka

\*627. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :  
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 29 Tamil militants are reported to have been recent victims of Sri Lankan Army;

(b) whether Sri Lanka is using the word 'militant' to cover its genocide actions; and

(c) the steps Government contemplate to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Govt. have seen various reports of killings of Tamil militants and civilians in Sri Lanka. The Hindustan Times reported on February 2, 1986 that 29 militants were killed by the Sri Lanka security forces.

(b) Government have received information that there have been many cases where

innocent Tamil civilians, including women and children killed as a result of operations by Sri Lanka security forces, have been described as militants.

(c) Government have already raised the issue of violence against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka in the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The leader of the Indian delegation to the 42nd meeting of the Human Rights Commission made a statement on March 7, 1986 conveying India's utmost concern at the violations of the human rights of Sri Lanka's Tamil citizens.

#### Concentration of Pak Troops along J and K Border

\*628. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :  
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy Pak army concentration has been reported in Poonch, Rajouri, Hajipeer and all along the Jammu and Kashmir border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the entire Hajipeer area has been converted into an army camp and many airpads have been constructed by Pakistan;

(c) whether the continuing intermittent firing by Pakistani troops at several places in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region has caused considerable tension in the region; and

(d) the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government have seen some media reports to this effect; but there is no evidence to suggest any unusual movement or concentration of Pakistani troops along the Line of Control and international border in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) There have been some cases of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control in Poonch and Rajouri areas. Such firing incidents are not uncommon.

(d) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

[*Translation*]

#### Tree Plantation

\*629. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tree planted throughout the country during the year 1984-85.

(b) the number of trees planted under the tree plantation programme during the last three years; and

(c) the number of trees out of them which are blossoming and which have withered away ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) 264 crores seedlings were planted under afforestation programmes in the country during the year 1984-85.

(b) The number of plants planted under afforestation during the last three years have been as under :

Year	1983-84	1984-85 (upto 31.12.1985)	1985-86
Number planted in Crores.	242	264	270

(c) Assessment of survivals has been made on a sporadic and not a very regular basis. It is felt that these evaluations are limited in their scope and hence do not point to any reliable conclusions.

[*English*]

#### Escape of Charles Sobhraj from Tihar Jail

\*630. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Charles Sobhraj, the notorious international criminal wanted by Interpol, was kept in the Tihar

Jail in a ward in which the murderer of the Former Prime Minister as well as other criminals were lodged;

(b) whether Charles Sobhraj had previously threatened the jail authorities to give him all the facilities he asked for or face exposure of their corrupt practices; and

(c) if so, in view of this dangerous background of Charles Sobhraj why no special security arrangements were made to prevent efforts by Charles Sobhraj to escape from the jail.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Charles Sobhraj was initially lodged in a ward in Jail No. 1 in a different cell and not along with either the assassin of late Prime Minister or the conspirators in the said case. There were other criminals lodged in the same ward but in different cells. Thereafter Charles Sobhraj was lodged in ward No. 4 of Jail No. 1 and shifted to ward No. 13 of Jail No. 3 on 18.1.1986.

(b) There is no such information. However, the terms of reference of the Inquiry Commission set up after the escape of Charles Sobhraj include, *Inter-alia*, determination and enquiry into the sequence of events and the circumstances leading to the escape of Charles Sobhraj and six other prisoners from the Central Jail No. 3, Tihar in the afternoon of 16th March, 1986.

(c) Ward No. 13 in which Charles Sobhraj was lodged is on the inner side of the jail and away from the outer walls of the prison. Personnel of the Tamil Nadu Special Police were posted in the Deori area as a special security precaution. The inquiry being held on the escape of Charles Sobhraj will examine all matters having a bearing on the security within the jail and also determine the short-comings and weaknesses in the jail administration.

#### Vacancies in Minorities Commission

\*631. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state ;