

country like the United States also had it. A comparable thing is the Scout spacecraft of the United States, which is very much like the ASLV. They have failed in the first, third, fifth and the seventh flights. This has happened in a very developed country like the USA. You know what happened to the Challenger.

SHRI P. KOLAÑDAIVELU: India is a poor country.

MR. SPEAKER: What is there in it?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: We have to take a decision, whether we have the courage, the determination to make this a success. But if we are disappointed at the first or second to failure, then we will never succeed in this.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: All of our more consequential satellites have been lifted into the space by foreign space centres, whether it is American, or European or the Soviet Union.

Whereas our miniscule efforts have failed, I am not casting aspersions on our scientists. I will be the last person to discourage them. I agree with the Minister if we were to get into the space age, we have to get there through our scientists. Now, the Minister went into the details of nitty-gritty as to where we have failed, what ignition worked and failed. But in spite of that, this happens again and again. I would like to know whether there is some basic inadequacy in the way we are functioning in our Space Centre because knowledge is accessible from other Space Centre because knowledge is accessible from other Space Centres in the world. If basic inadequacy is there, we would fail despite all our efforts to correct the nitty-gritty. I would like to know whether we propose to take any steps to remedy those inadequacies.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Minister has already explained this.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: It is not factually correct to say that all our attempts to launch satellites have failed. We have launched three SLV Satellites successfully

from Sriharikota in to orbit with 50 Kgs. pay load. We have spent up 195 sounding rockets successfully from the same place. Therefore, what you are saying that our miniscule attempts have failed, is not factually correct. We have sent up three SLV satellites and it was not a small achievement....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL: Then, why have you failed?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Some people have got a touching faith in foreign technology and think that if we could launch from abroad, we would succeed. INSAT 1-C was one hundred per cent American technology. Even that also did not succeed....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL: INSAT 1-C was not lifted into space by our vehicle, but by the European vehicles 'Arianne'... (Interruptions)

We did not make INSAT 1-C ourselves. We made it in cooperation with the Americans.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

#### Recruitment of Engineers to Military Services

\*207. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the general ban on recruitment was made applicable to the recruitment of engineers in the military services;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in spite of this ban the Southern Command had appointed 2030 persons in 1985; and

(c) if so, the additional financial burden consequent on these appointments so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2236 persons were appointed in the Southern Command during April/May, 1985.

(c) The expenditure incurred on these appointments prior to their regularisation in November, 1986 was approximately Rs. 360 lakhs.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that inspite of ban on recruitment, new recruitment has been made. So I want to know the circumstances in which new recruitment has been made and for that when, what and from whom the orders were obtained?

*[English]*

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, the last circular was sent on 02.04.1985 and it was 'until further orders'. It reached the Southern Command by 18th April 1985. Therefore, these appointments were made between first April 1985 and 18th April 1985. The number of appointments made during that period was 2,236. Then, after 18th April 1985, when this message reached the Southern Command, another 206 appointments were made and they were irregularly made. The hon. Member is very vigilant on this. A court of inquiry was ordered as to why 206 appointments were made after the ban order was received by the Southern Command. Action was taken against concerned persons.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Sir out of the recruited people how many personnel have been posted in the country after training and how many personnel have been sent to Sri Lanka with IPKF I want to know whether all the personnel sent to Sri Lanka are safe and sound.

*[English]*

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: This has nothing to do with IPKF. This is only regarding recruitment to military Engi-

neering service of Southern Command. Sir, we got released posts for these vacancies because the work load was expanding and we were constantly being requested for that from September 1984 onwards.

From about Rs. 340 crores the workload went upto about Rs. 460 crores. The work load was increasing because of many new projects coming up and the manpower was less. Therefore, we went on pursuing with the Government, Ministry of Finance, to give us these posts so that we can regularise these appointments. Therefore, we got released 24,000 posts for the MES of the Southern Command. We have recruited about 10,000 work force which includes the regularisation of posts already recruited?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Are you having any proposal to have further development and further recruitment in the Southern Command at Trivandrum? Will you develop it further by recruiting more personnel there in the near future?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I am happy that Hon'ble Member is interested in providing further employment opportunities. We are trying for that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is generally agreed that the training of Military Engineering Service is very tough and the people who come out of the training, are found to be more disciplined and knowledgeable and have acquired self-confidence. May I know from the hon. Minister, instead of banning recruitment in Military Engineering Service, will he think in terms of reducing the retirement age so that competent people will come out of the Military Engineering Service with confidence, knowledge and discipline who can be put to use in civii services?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I quite appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, Mr. Rao. But we had not put the ban. It was a general ban order. Rather we are trying to get move and move posts cleared as and when required. We know that the Military Engineering Service

people are efficient and well trained. We agree with you on that.

**Punjab Terrorists Links with Drug Traffickers in Pakistan**

\*208. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:  
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proof of Punjab terrorists having link with the drug traffickers in Pakistan has since established by the International Criminal Police Organisation as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 17 July, 1988;

(b) whether on the basis of the reports of the International Criminal Police Organisation, Government has taken any action so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to solve the issue by discussing with the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) Periodic bulletins circulated by ICPO--Interpol have disclosed evidence regarding links between drug traffickers and terrorists.

(b) and (c). In March, 1988, the Government of India, in collaboration with ICPO-Interpol convened *ad hoc* inter-regional meeting of heads of drug services from Europe and Indian sub-continent at New Delhi. The nexus between drug traffickers and terrorists was discussed in detail and specific recommendations for action including measures for better exchange of information and intelligence and mutual cooperation were evolved.

(d) Drug trafficking, terrorism and related matters were discussed in detail be-

tween Home Secretary of India and Interior Secretary of Pakistan in May 1988, in which both sides had agreed to extend mutual assistance in fighting the menace.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted in his statement that there is a link between the terrorists and drug traffickers. I want to submit that according to the report published in the press 25,000 messages have been exchanged between the Interpol and the intelligence department. Out of them 40 per cent messages that is about 10,000 messages confirm that Heroin is smuggled through India and the weapons bought from there are given to the terrorists and this work is being done on large scale. It clearly shows that drug trafficking through terrorists at such a large scale and acquiring of weapons is not possible without the connivance of Pakistan. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that what effective steps have been suggested in the meetings held at the Home Secretary level, on implementation of which this drug trafficking and smuggling of arms and making them available to terrorists will be stopped. I want to know the decisions that have been taken in the meeting of Home-Secretaries.

[English]

SHRI CHIDAMBARAM: As I said in the main answer, the two countries have agreed to exchange information and intelligence. If specific cases of smuggling of drugs come to the notice of either country, we have agreed that a flag meeting will be convened at the Company Commander level to facilitate deterrent action. Both before the meeting of May, '88 and after the meeting of May, 1988, Pakistan has shared information and intelligence with the Indian agencies. In this aspect the co-operation has been reasonably satisfactory because, I think, Pakistan is also concerned about the impact of drug smuggling on its people.