

(vii) Need to resume offshore and onshore oil drilling operations in West Bengal Basin

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, A few years ago, oil drilling operations, both off-shore and on-shore, were undertaken in West Bengal basin, but these were abandoned as not having been found "commercially viable to be exploded on a large scale." According to some experienced geologists, West Bengal is virtually floating on oil, which remained untapped. According to these experts, the giant petroleum reserve in the carbonate reservoir in West Bengal and adjoining off-shore of Bay of Bengal was discovered in 1984. Off-shore data on this were acquired by the Natonos group of oil companies of the USA and on-shore data of the Southern part by a Soviet team. The study revealed the presence of porous oil bearing carbonate rocks at a depth of 5,000 meters-being of about 60 million years old. These rock layers are oil-bearing along a 10 KM wide, North East, South-West alignment through the districts of South 24-Parganas and Nadia up to the Indo-Bangladesh international border. The promising area is within 600 metres East of the well-drilled by the ONGC near Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas. I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government of India to exploit this huge oil reserve which is capable of making India a leading oil exporting country of the world.

(viii) Need to replace old Telephone Exchange in Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh with Electronic telephone exchange

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMAL VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an urgent matter of public importance.

There is an old telephone exchange in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh where telephone always remain out of order. Electronic exchanges have been set up even in some big villages. Therefore, I would request that Electronic exchange should be set up in Seoni city and also in all the big villages of Seoni districts. From the point of view of the hon. Minister's announcement to the effect that all villages will have tele-communication facility by the year 1975 the department does not have the adequate equipment. Therefore, I would say that with a view to fulfilling this objective, new industries for the manufacture of telecom equipment should be set up in Seoni which is a tribal dominated area and also a no-industry district. This will also help in fulfilling the needs of the eight other adjacent districts without incurring additional expenditure on transportation.

13.07 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1991-92-*CONTD*

Ministry of Defence

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 16 to 22 relating to the Ministry of Defence, for which eight hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes, indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A List showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put on the Notice Board shortly. In case any member

finds any discrepancy in the List, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved:

"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 March, 1992, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 16 to 22 relating to the Ministry of Defence."

STATEMENT

Demands for Grants in respect of Ministry of Defence for the year 1991-92 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 29th July, 1991		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
16.	Ministry of Defence	554,60,000	56,38,00,000	554,59,00,000	56,39,00,000
17.	Defence Pensions	874,00,000	...	874,83,00,000	...
18.	Defence Services Army	4182,15,00,000	...	4182,15,00,000	...
19.	Defence Services-Navy	457,93,00,000	...	457,93,00,000	...
20.	Defence Services-Air Force	1060,39,00,000	...	1060,38,00,000	...
21.	Defence Ordnance Factories	350,00,00,000	...	13,89,00,000	...
22.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	...	3087,46,00,000	...	2117,31,00,000

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I rise to speak on the Defence Budget, 1991 with a sense of disappointment at the manner in which the Defence Budget is treated year after year.

Big, vague, meaningless platitudes are bandied around and good-looking booklets are produced but at the end the ultimate result is some old casual, secretive holy cow attitude which creates a psychosis of fear where questioning, scrutinising or suggesting rationalising the defence expenditure is treated as something which is not in the interest of the nation and it is something which is just not done.

Sir, having spent 36 years in the Army and a couple of years at the Army Headquarters at Delhi and dealt at various levels, I can say with conviction that the present system, the present attitude is doing good to no one. It is not doing good to the country, it is not even doing good to the Army or to the Services which are supposed to be covered under the secretive attitudes.

The Defence Budget is the second highest component of non-Plan Budget Expenditure. There was stated by the hon. Finance Minister in his speech. However, sadly, beyond making a few routine noises he gave us no idea. Here, I would like to quote his words.

"We must, therefore, seek to limit expenditure without diluting the efficiency and effectiveness of our defence services.."

In fact, he gave us no idea about any new thrust or approach for achieving, improving upon the efficiency and effectiveness without increasing the Budget. Sadly, he disposed of Defence in his speech in less words than what he had for the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation - a matter of Rs. 16,350 crores versus Rs. 100 crores. He disposed of it just

like that. I hope the Raksha Mantri will not allow himself to be grooved into the same old routine manner of thinking.

I shall take on a few major issues. The first and most worrisome, to my way of thinking, thing is the financial management and control that exist today. The way the financial control is being operated today is not only counter-productive and wasteful but also creating a lot of ill-will and distrust in an area where harmonious working is the most important thing, that is, between the Service Headquarters and the Ministers. Today, the Finance people and the bureaucracy have acquired for themselves a stranglehold on the system against all management principles. It is resulting in tremendous time and cost-overruns. The present system of complete and unlimited control the Finance people have on the utilisation of every single paisa that is accounted for, approved in the Budget is not only *un-natural* but it also lowers the prestige and dignity of the Service Headquarters. In my way of thinking, it is creating two major problems. The first is, as I said earlier, the mutual distrust. Today, whether it is the Ministry or the Service Headquarters, people are wanting to score points. Everyone wants to keep an ace up his sleeve to out-wit the other. The Ministry people want the file and thereby they can catch the other and tell him that he doesn't know his job. Today, people who are not dealing with the security aspect of the nation are sitting on judgement over the people who ought to know better. This sort of an environment, whosoever is right or wrong, is creating a sense of distrust and creating an atmosphere of distrust. The whole atmosphere has been fouled up. I do not know whether the people or the Minister or the others who matter are aware of it. But I would suggest to them to go into the details and see the amount of ill-will that has been generated in the same system which is something just unbelievable. Ultimately, who suffers? It is the nation which is suffering, it

[Sh. Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri]

is the effectiveness and preparedness which we talk about that is suffering. The biggest fault of the present system of financial control is the distrust that has been created between the people who ought to be working in harmony.

Secondly, authority and accountability are divorced. Today crores and crores of rupees are being spent and yet if the Chief of the Army staff the Chief of the Navy staff or the Chief of the Air Staff wants to spend a few lakhs or rupees or a few thousand rupees, he must go to the Ministry, show the file and get the approval. People who are there may be good accountants. But they are not the people who are concerned with the nation's security. Today, the decisions are being taken by those people who are not accountable. There are people in the Ministry and in the Financial side also who command all the authority but when something goes wrong, they have no accountability. Is this the system that we want to work for? I think, this point ought to be discussed. I will only give you a few examples of how this cost and time overruns are crippling the services today because of this system.

First is the under-utilisation of funds. On one side, we keep on saying that we do not have funds. On the other side, year after year, there is under-utilisation. There are various reasons. One of the reasons is that the responsibility for this in on these people who are not accountable. During the year 1989-90, we talked of shortage of funds. Yet there was under-utilisation Rs. 20.08 crores by Army, Rs. 17.81 crores by Navy and Rs. 39.25 crores by ordnance factories. That means, an amount of about Rs. 80 crores was not utilised and we were saying that we were short of funds. This is a type of financial management that is going on in the services today.

Second aspect is the modernisation of tanks. It has been discussed a number of times in Parliament and I need not talk about it. But as of today, there there are two main reasons which have been given not be me or by people who may have their own interests but the CAG in its Report. What did it say? It gave two reasons for the abnormal delay-one "a piecemeal sanction instead of the comprehensive one". I just told you a little earlier that for everything that is required to be done, you must have to float a file. Even if a thing has been approved, you still have to float a file and it goes right up to the top in the processing channel and then it comes right down in the Ministry examination comments. Who is the person who is the boss? A Desk Officer. He is the one who puts his notings; he is the one who is commenting on the security proposals and recommendations of the Chiefs of Army, Naval and Air Staff. Is this the system you want? Cases are put up on file and are scrutinised and the decision is being given by the people who have on idea about the things.

The second reason for the delay in modernisation of tanks was that is, the Steering Committee did not meet since 1st October, 1985. This is a type of control management that is being exercised.

The third example is about the new small arm weapons. The Army felt the need in 1978 for a new variety of, new range of smaller weapons. When was the approval given? Approval was given after four and a half Years. It took people four and a half years to sit on a judgment about the type of basic weapon to be purchased. Till today this weapon is not available for whatever reasons. From 1987, we are now in 1991.

The next example is about the escalation in costs. I have been repeating every time that for anything that is required to be done, when if it is a small item, cases are

floated on files. I will give you an example of a consumable item. Even where the quantities are fixed, numbers are fixed, procedures are fixed, yet every quarter, there must be a case floated of how much of Dalda you want and at what cost. The case must go up on the top and then to the bottom Rank Offices in the process. In the meantime, three months pass in this and in these three months, cost goes up. The rate of inflation is going up by one per cent per month. In a recent case, the cost of oil Hydrogenated went up by Rs. 8 per kilo while the case we being processed. In the bargain if you have to buy one thousand tonnes of it or so you can imagine what was the cost that was paid for this meaningless processing, not that any new ideas are given, not that any management techniques have been used in the system to reduce the cost. Nothing. It is the same thing which was purchased at a higher cost.

Same thing happens with the construction activities. We have a system whereby a project which got sanctioned three or four years back, requires fresh financial concurrence at the Ministry level. Instead of delegating this power to the people who matter, who are responsible and accountable, it is handled by persons who can make no useful contribution. And by the time processing is due the tender dates are over and the contractor are not willing to take up the job. And we had to re start tendering again. This not only delay the project but casts us much more money.

There are many examples. But there is no need for that. I hope the point is brought home. We are paying heavy costs for meaningless processing by non-professionals. I just like to put across to Raksha Mantri that the Govt has chosen the service chiefs with great care and they go through a tough process of selection. You have given the policy directions; you have given the guidelines, you have laid down procedures. You have got auditors and C.A.G to carry

out subsequent scrutiny yet you want them to pass through the processing game everytime, even for the routine matters. It is amazing that you cannot depend on these people for a few lakhs of rupees, when you are willing to hand them over not hundreds but thousands or probably lakhs of crores of equipment, men - 10 lakh men with somebody, 2 lakh men with somebody. When all these can be handled by these people, how come that they cannot handle a few lakhs of rupees? What sort of a system is this? How are you using the modern concepts and management techniques to improve the system. I would like to put very humbly that this system of financial management and control is not satisfactory and needs to be over hauled. How can a Desk Officer be more capable of sitting on a judgment of the Principal Staff Officer of the Chief of the Army Staff or Naval Staff or Air Staff? Kindly think it over. it is not only degrading the prestige of the Chiefs of the Service but also, as I told you it is costing a tremendous amount of money to our nation and causing damaging delay in our preparedness and combat effectiveness.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it based on over personal experience as Major General?

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I have been in the Army for 36 years. Obviously, I have some experience in this .

In this regard, I would like to give two major suggestions to the Raksha Mantri for implementation.

The first one is to handover the Revenue Budget to the Service Chiefs. Let them handle it as per the approved provision in the Budget. You have got your own system of checks and balances. There is no need for you to handle the revenue budget. It can be given to them easily.

[Sh. Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri]

Secondly, I would suggest that you bring in a system of Integrated Finance whereby, for whatever finance, the finance men can work under and give their advice to a person who can take the accountability and responsibility. They will then not sit on judgment and wash off their hand when it comes to accountability. We all know about the Finance Ministry's attitude on Bofors case, wherein if something goes wrong, somebody else is responsible but no responsibility with them. So please incorporate these people, these experts, advisors, with the Service Chiefs, with their PSOs, and send them wherever you want. Let them use their expertise in a meaningful manner and not in a destructive manner.

My suggestion will not only have benefits in terms of cost and time but it would create a very healthy atmosphere. Today, as I said a battle of scoring of points is going on all over the place. Therefore, if you have a system, whereby there is mutual trust, mutual confidence, when people know that this group of people is responsible and accountable for a particular item, I am sure, that things will move in a better manner.

I would request that in this system of reoriented thinking, we can take a leaf out of what Macanmara did to the American army, many many years ago. He completely reoriented the thinking; something very courageous hard-headed and something entirely new and refreshing. This is required to be done, if you want to get out of this rut, which we have allowed ourselves to go into all these years. We have been trapped in the system. We have to get out of this. Now I will come to a few other points.

Gentlemen, it is quite fashionable to talk of combat effectiveness of the services. I regret to say that most of the time, most of the people who talk about it have no clue as

to what it involves or what it implies. We feel happy and satisfied by just increasing the budget, in terms of money, not knowing what the real impact is, whether cost have escalated, whether prices have gone up. Having given a little extra money, today, the country feels very happy that it has done its duty towards the Defence, and feels that the cost effectiveness is there, combat effectiveness is there, morale of the people is high and everything is all right. Gentlemen, it is not so. The combat effectiveness does not increase, the morale does not increase, just by giving a few machines or weapons systems. It is a mix of man and machine and not of man alone or machine alone, but the result of man, machine mix. In the ultimate analysis, when the chips are down, it is the man who counts. Therefore, if you can understand this man, if you can understand the morale and how morale does get affected, if you take care of this man, even with not so good an equipment, he can deliver the goods. And you know what happened with old aircraft in 1969 and 1971. So, it is man who matters. Therefore, when you talk of the combat effectiveness, gentleman, please think of the morale of the men and consider it from that point of view also.

I want to elaborate a little bit on the aspect of jawan and his morale today. Let us understand that the jawan of today is not an island in our society, where you can expect him to be fully-disciplined, honest and straight forward and die for the country, when it comes to fighting a war. Today in our society we know what sort of an environment we live in. Today, everybody wants to get rich quick by any means. When this Jawan goes to the village he has to pay money to get his things done. He has to go through all that jungle of corruption. Therefore you cannot expect him to have to same kind of standard which we used to perceive many years ago. He does get affected, he is affected by the society and the environment he lives in.

Even then today if there is some ray of hope in our society, some source of national integration, rising above petty things, it is in these services, it is in the Army, it is in these Jawans who live with people from all over the country, they eat together, they play together and when is required they die together. Irrespective of their caste or creed they die for the nation. Therefore we have to understand that this man is also getting affected by the society and therefore certain amount of his needs certain amount of mental peace which gets disturbed because of the environment around, must also be taken care of.

I will now take up a few cases which are affecting the morale of people in the services. It is sad but true that we have not really been looking after our Jawans properly - the way he should be looked after them, the way one should be thankful to the people who give their youth for the sake of the Nation in very difficult terrain and conditions. During war, before war, the nation gives every support to the Jawan. He is put on a very high pedestal but the moment the war is over, the moment troubles are over, like God, he is forgotten when there is peace and tranquility, when there is no problem. It is just a matter of interest that everytime after every war the Order of Precedence of the services have come down. This is the reward that they get.

This sort of attitude is not good. We may not have had a war for a long time; but when it does occur, you cannot build a system overnight. Therefore we should look after our men well.

The first point that I would like to highlight is about the age of retirement. This point is now being talked about with regard to one rank one pension, to which I will come a little later. I don't know how many people are in the know or how many people are aware that these people start retiring at

the age of thirty. Imagine plight of a man who retires at the age of thirty. Now people living in our country, with good health system and all that, live upto seventy years. So for 35 to 40 years this man has to live without an employment. Because when we cannot give employment to our young people, how will anybody give employment to the so called retired people, although he has retired at the age of thirty? This man dies an uncared for man, a poor man, living in peculiarity, without any job, his children not having been settled, he not having been able to construct a house. He has retired or he is labelled a retired man at the age of 30, 35 or 40. I am talking of the bulk of the Army, I am not talking of the few people who go beyond 50 years.

This Report (Annual Report on Defence) tells us that fifty thousand people like this are retiring in the services every year. These fifty thousand people are well trained, well disciplined. A large number of them have acquired some sort of training but they are not being used by this nation. I would like to ask as to why we are wasting this trained and disciplined manpower. A number of studies have been carried out. Service Headquarters have given various suggestions. But at present nobody wants to take the bull by the horn and take a decision.

Sir, these people are available to you to serve for the next 35 or 40 years. Not only that you will rehabilitate these people, you will have a disciplined set of workers also. Even financially you will save because when these people sidestep to either Government jobs or semi-Government jobs, their pensionary amount will be added to their pay and probably the nation will save, apart from other things. We talk of one rank one pension. Probably that will also go in the background. So why don't we do any real thinking on this, I cannot comprehend. This issue has been going on and on; it is no that I am saying this for the first time. Service

[Sh. Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri]

Headquarters have put many such proposals, I am sure the Ministry also made such proposals. But what is the problem? Why these things cannot be overcome? Why cannot we get take original decisions? Why cannot we out of routine decisions? I don't understand this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it your desire that more seats should be reserved for the ex-military personnel in civil service?

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Why desire is that every soldier, who joins the services, should be given a guaranteed job by Government of India till the age of 58. That is my requirement. But I am talking of bulk of the people who retire at 35 or 40 years of age and then they have nothing to do. Therefore, the Government should accept a commitment that when you join Army or Navy or Air Force, Government will give you a guarantee job upto 58, wherever you may send them to serve. Let us understand that. There must be some sense in our logic. There must be some truth in the system. There are so many paramilitary forces and so many places where they can serve. You utilise their expertise. Have a proper system. It does not exist today.

Next, we come to one-rank-one-pension. It is a very current topic. We have had a lot of heat generated in this House. But I would like to clarify some grey areas, some worldly-thinking that is going around this. Therefore when we talk of one-rank-one-pension, you may call it by any name. Somebody talked of Supreme Court's decision; somebody said, await decision.

When a man has gone into service, he has given his youth. He is being sent home for no fault of his. He does not want to go but you send him at the age of 30. Then, You

want to compare him with a man who, as a routine, retires at 58, but this man retires at 30 or 40. It is said that if there is enhancement in his pension, then that man, who is retiring at 58, will also ask. This is most illogical. You allow this man to retire at 58. I am sure, he will not ask. Why should he ask for it? He is getting his pay till 58. You please understand this man. At 30 or 35 years, he is retiring. His children are young. He does not have a house when he serves in the Army. Today the colour service is 17 years. In 17 years, he would not be able to construct a house. When the parents leave, their children call them 'uncle'. They do not even know probably the gentleman who once in a year comes to the House. This man has not been able to pay any attention to his domestic problems. You want to compare him with a man who is sitting nice and pretty with his family, all these 30-40 years of his service. He is allowed to stay with his family throughout his career. Then you want to compare. It is not fair. Do not just make an issue out of nothing. This is my request. Give a jawan his dues by whatever name you call it. Give him a decent way of living so that he can say that the nation is looking after his and the nation is not neglecting him. Kindly give him that sort of a status, that sort of a living. He wants nothing more. All these people are young people. They have been trained in Army. We have spent so much money on training and this tenure of 17 years should not go waste like that. Therefore, I suggest that this one-rank-one-pension should be taken above party politics. Let us not involve politics in it. Whosoever wants to get credit for it, let him take the credit.

I have met people who have retired after Second World War. They were demobilised after the Second World War. What sort of pension they are getting? It is just Rs. 300, that is Rs. 10 a day. Is it fair? They are living miserably as retired people. They are withering. They are disgruntled and dissatisfied with the Nation.

I had said it earlier in the House when this point was discussed. My sincere request to everybody in the House is that here is a set of people in whom the discipline has been ingrained. Kindly do not force them on to the roads. If this sort of people come to the roads, then our Nation will be in a bad state. It is not only the ex-servicemen but also the people in service because they are also going to retire tomorrow. They know it well. So, kindly do not convert the last set of people the disciplined people - into an undisciplined lot. You will be doing a great disservice to this nation.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Last set of people?

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Well, Sir, this is a perception. Whenever there is any trouble, you want a disciplined force. You send the Army. If you have somebody else, you send them. (Interruptions) Well, let us say, my English may be poor. But the idea is that here is a set of people who are disciplined. My request is that do not force them to go into unionism, trade-unionism and 'Jhandebazi' and 'Sarak ke uppar'.

I am not saying this for any personal motive. I am saying that for the sake of the nation, it is not good.

The next point is about housing which I spoke a little earlier. This is again a big problem. I do not know whether or not Raksha Mantri is actually aware of the details of this problem in the Army. I do not think that I will be expressing it adequately by merely saying that it is in a very bad state. As per the rules out of 100 people only 14 people are authorised to get married accommodation. When was it fixed? It was fixed during the British days. And what was the colour service at that time? It was seven years. Those were the days when there were joint families, village life and no

urbanisation. But today the whole scenario has changed and yet, we have got only 14 per cent of married accommodation. And these days, even this 14 per cent is not available. What is the level of availability percentage as per the Report? It is 66 per cent. Today 8.4 per cent people get married accommodation in peace stations. For three years they serve in Siachen area and another two to three years in a peace station and somewhere else. As far as peace stations are concerned, only 8 out of 100 people get married accommodation. What happens today in the Army? The Commanding Officer can give his man married accommodation only for eight months or ten months and then families have to be sent back. So, this is all the time he gets to be with his family. It may be once in six years.

Added to this men are sent on internal security duties. There are floods somewhere and riots somewhere or something somewhere and he has to pack up his bag and go, even that time is not made available to him. We are talking about such type of men and morale of such men, when we talk about combat effectiveness. So, kindly link up these things. I know that this involves very huge amount of expenditure. But if you are aware at least, you will go in some direction and we can be satisfied that there is an effort to improve. If you cannot improve here, at least you can improve where you can. Let us tell him that we understand his problems. But you cannot say that he is very well off and that he has nothing to wrong. This is the man who is going to win the battle for you.

The next point is about the Improper Use of the Army. Gentlemen, there has been a practice in our country, whichever be the Government, whether mixed or un-mixed, to utilise the services of the Army at the slightest pretext and that Army should take care. If there is any problem, the State Government or the Central Government say that the Army should go. This sort of attitude

[Sh. Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri]

is also being highlighted a number of times. It is not good. You are subjecting Army to a duty for which they are neither trained nor it is good for their training and morale. You are throwing them into an area which they are not used to and for which they are not trained.

There are two types of improper use of the Army which I would like to speak about. Firstly, you want to correct the political mistakes. Examples are Blue Star in Punjab and IPKF. I need say more about it. There may have been compulsions. But I would like to highlight and request to kindly do a lot of deliberate thinking before you take a decision. It appears sometimes in the services that these decisions are taken off the cuff, like fire brigade action, you tell the Army to go to Sri Lanka as there is some problem, go there with a battalion, etc. without knowing what is going to happen afterwards. We had gone there with *dandas* and later on, we were told to go with this and that. And eventually, it became a major commitment. So, this sort of political mistakes by the use of Armed forces should be done after a great deal of deliberation and not in an ad-hoc and casual manner.

The second type of improper use of the Army is the aid to civil authorities. There are a variety of them but I will give you one example to highlight that it is not being done with due thought. For example, floods have been coming for many years in this country. But till today, Army gets employed for flood relief every time when there is flood. The State Government cannot even purchase the equipment that is required. They will not even buy their boats because the Army will bring the boats. They will not use their people because the Army will be there. Why does it happen? Why don't you tell the State Government to have their own organisation and equipments as flood is a recurring

feature in their area. Why do they want to make use of the Army equipments which are meant for war? This path has been followed for long. The Army is available easily. The forces just go there and save the people because of the discipline and the training they have got. They do a good job with a sense of loyalty and good value and the administration feels that here are the people who do the job and why to train their own people and so on. I sincerely request, Sir, that this must stop. The State Governments must be told that if there are recurring problems, they should kindly make their own arrangements. Otherwise, it will not be proper and it is injustice to the Army. It has been going on for the last 44 years. Same thing happens with regard to security checks at the landing places of VIP helicopters. The Services engineers are told to do the job, but they do not have the equipment. Still they are told to manage it somehow and they do something. But if something goes wrong, they are held responsible. Why cannot the responsibility be fixed on those people who are meant for that job in the first place? If they are not trained and if the requirement is frequently occurring every now and then, they must be told to organise themselves. They must be prepared properly for it and they should also be given the required equipment and training.

There are many other aspects which affect the morale of the Defence Forces, but I would not like to go more into it. One last point I want to mention in this regard is the welfare of the ex-service men. Today this subject of welfare of ex-servicemen is in the State List and it is not being given due importance. I would request that this subject be included in the Concurrent List.

I would only touch upon a few areas which affect the Defence Funds. We all know that the Defence Research and Development Organisation is doing a very good job in certain fields. But very sadly I have to

point out that as far as their support to the Services is concerned, especially in terms of routine requirements, it is in a bad state. None of the projects is completed on time. We hear very good things about 'Akash', 'Prithvi' and so on. Here they are doing a good job. But I think they are concentrating on that alone because there is a lot of publicity and pats on their backs for the good work they are doing. When it comes to small requirements, if I want a camouflage net or some such small equipment, I do not get it for years! The technology which ought to have been available at the day to day working level is not there. I do not think any such projects go on time. I would request that this aspect may kindly be seen in detail. If required, a special audit by the CAG may be carried out about their system of functioning, financial management, utilisation of funds in various areas, etc. I do not want to elaborate on this aspect but if required, I will give further details on it. My next point is about the Public Sector undertakings and the Director General of Ordnance Factories. They also consume a lot of Defence funds. My only objection to it is why the services are required to give preferential payments to them. Why should the Services be made to pay for the bad management or bad productivity of some other organisations? If I get a pencil cheaper in the market, I must be allowed to buy it from there. Let there be competition. Now the Government is talking of competition and all that. I hope this aspect of competition is introduced in this field also, whereby the Public Sector undertakings and the DGOFs are made accountable and there should not be any preferential prices. The prices should be as per the market prices that are prevailing. This way, the Service would be able to save a lot of money. This again needs a lot of other inputs, but I would not like to discuss all those things here.

There are a few miscellaneous points which I would like to touch upon. The first is

the National Security Council. This was formed on 24 August 1990. We have not heard anything about it afterwards. We do not know what is happening. This morning, I wanted to raise the matter about the 300 tanks that are rolling into Pakistan from Saudi Arabia. If we do have a functioning body, then it would have probably anticipated this event and it would have got its intelligence reports. But I do not know whether the National Security Council is working or not. I do not know whether the Government knows about the tanks. Probably, the Defence Minister may like to share their information with us. Did the Government know that tanks are going to Pakistan? If they knew, what pre-emptive action did they take? Did they try to stop this? Or did they try to register some protest, or did they try to do whatever they are required to do? If they did not know about this, then what sort of an intelligence system do we have, wherein the newspapers can get the information but the Government cannot get it? The National Security Council is not meant for keeping a decoration piece, just for the sake of saying that we have a National Security Council. Let there be a functional organisation. We do have a variety of organisations at lower levels. But let there be a body which will look after the major national issues. I would request that this be made functional. We may be informed at what stage it is, as to what they are doing and what sort of charter is given to them.

Now I come to the Arun Singh Report. I would like to know as to what has happened to it. I understand that it has given a lot of valuable suggestions. I would like to know whether these have been accepted or not. What are the major suggestions and major recommendations? We may kindly be told about this.

I hope the 8th Plan gets finalised and implemented shortly. When the 7th Plan was finalised, I was in the Army at that time. It was

[Sh. Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri]

a big joke for us. We made about a dozen alternatives. The Army Headquarter and Services Headquarter did nothing else expect making the plans. All their expertise and time, which should have been used for operational purposes, was wasted in the preparation of infrastructure plan. I hope the same thing will not happen to the 8th Plan. I would like to say that at least for the Services kindly give them Plan in time because their planning involves a lot of thinking and a lot of time lapses before things start materialising.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words about the world political scenario. I would like to mention that the situation in USSR ought to be taken care of. We should see how it affects our national security. At the same time I would like to say that it is high time that we take some initiative in improving our relations with China. A lot of financial expenditure is involved on this count and if we can go more than half way in resolving our issue, we should make our attempt so that this quantum of money which is being used there can be used elsewhere usefully and fruitfully.

At th end, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

TEXT OF CUT MOTIONS

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: (Madhubani):
I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give due emphasis on the basic features of the Constitution Such as Secularism, Socialism and republic while imparting training to army personnel] (8)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to avoid deployment of army personnel on administrative and civil duties as far as possible except for maintenance of essential services] (9)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide resources and funds to the ex-servicemen for productive self-employment particularly in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar.] (16)

"That the Demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced to Rs. 1."

[Failure to accept and implement the principle of one rank one pension for army personnel.] (19)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to make the country self-reliant in the matter of defence production.] (57)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make progressive use of Hindi mandatory for the offices of defence services.] (58)

SHRI. BHUVAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allocated more funds to housing scheme of the defence personnel.] (10)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the impact of ever increasing burden on pay and pension of defence personnel.] (11)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve cost-effective approach to utilisation of large number of trained and disciplined defence personnel who retire at young age.] (12)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the Defence expenditure vis-a-vis National Security and areas of savings.] (13)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to accept one rank one pension for ex-serviceman] (14)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to implement "One Rank One Pension Scheme", for ex-servicemen.] (15)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to restore commuted value of pension after 10 years instead of 15 years in respect of defence personnel] (17)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Pensions reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to accept the principle of on rank one pension for defence personnel.] (18)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for the expansion and modernisation of Central Ordnance Depot at Agra.] (26)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for setting up of Ordnance factory at Agra.] (27)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide Government accommodation to the employees of Ordnance Depot and the Army Base Workshop at Agra.] (28)

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up full-fledged Ordnance factory at Eddumyalaram in Andhra Pradesh.] (29)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Sh. Dattatraya Bandaru]

[Need to give adequate compensation to the Harijans of Balapur village whose lands have been acquired for starting a defence research centre in Ranga Reddy District in Andhra Pradesh.] (30)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make a nuclear bomb for the defence of the country.] (31)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to recruit the local people in IMARAT, BDL and MIDHANI in Andhra Pradesh.] (32)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to recreate a cantonment for the areas occupied by various establishments such as DMRI, DURL, BRL, BDL, MIDHANI, IMARAT and CRPF in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.] (33)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the illegal encroachments on land under Cantonment Board, Hyderabad.] (34)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to avoid frequent deployment of

army for assisting Civil Administrations.] (36)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate employment opportunities to ex-servicemen particularly in Bundi district of Rajasthan.] (37)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for providing modern arms to army.] (38)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate facilities to disabled defence personnel.] (39)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct more houses for Defence Personnel in Cantonment areas.] (40)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more accommodation facilities to soldiers in Nasirabad Cantonment Boards, Rajasthan.] (41)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make atom bomb for the defence of the Country.] (42)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more powers to Soldiers Welfare Boards.] (43)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide compulsory military Training to the youth of the country in order to provide a second-line of defence.] (44)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Service Air Force be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to equip the Indian Air Force with 'AWACS'.] (48)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Ordnance Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish an Ordnance factory in Rajasthan.] (49)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera):

I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to enforce one rank one pension scheme for the Ex-Serviceman.] (45)

"That the demand under the Head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to restore the ad-hoc increase in the pensions to the Defence pensioners granted by the Govt. on 13th October, 1990.] (46)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Defence pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to enforce One Rank One Pension Scheme for the Ex-serviceman.] (59)

"That the demand under the Head Defence pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to restore grant of ad-hoc increase in the pensions to the Armed Forces pensioners granted by the Government on 31st October, 1990.] (60)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer):

I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to equip the Indian armed forces with most sophisticated equipments.] (70)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to manufacture atom bomb for the defence of the country.] (71)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to hold more recruiting melas at Jawaja, Beawar, Teedgarh, Bhim, Ajmer, Nasserabad and Musuda in Rajasthan in order to recruit better soldiers.] (72)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduce by Rs. 100."

[Need to revive the Ajmer Regiment and Merwara Battalion and to recruit more

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

persons belonging to Rawat/Mehrat martial communities and to relax the educational qualification therefor.] (73)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to involve army officers and defence experts in decision making and to minimise the role of bureaucrats in the process.] (74)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to promote defence research projects and to provide all round training and facilities to defence personnel.] (75)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the frequent and indiscriminate deployment of armed forces to curb the increasing terrorism communal riots and lawlessness in the country.] (76)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to implement One Rank One Pension Scheme for the Ex-Servicemen.] (77)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate mess facilities for defence personnel in Ajmer, Nasirabad, Jaipur, Kota, Udaipur and Alwar Cantonments.] (78)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to extend the jurisdiction of Cantonments.] (79)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to hold timely elections to Cantonment Boards to increase public representation therein.] (80)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to settle ex-servicemen in border and sensitive areas of the country to serve as security belt.] (81)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to modernise Air Force and Navy.] (82)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to strengthen and streamline the working of National Defence Academy and to make the academic and training curricula to suit to the present needs.] (83)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to implement the long over due "One Rank One Pension" scheme declared earlier for ex-servicemen and accepted by all parties.] (86)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give special pensions to the dependents of Army personnel who lost their lives, were disabled or handicapped during wars Pakistan, China Bangladesh and operations in Sri Lanka.] (87)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services-Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to strengthen the ex-servicemen Welfare Boards and make them more efficient, active, resourceful and financially sound.] (88)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services-Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to impress upon Central/State Government Department and Public Undertakings to recruit ex-servicemen only against their reserved quota of jobs.] (89)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services-Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide self-employment and re-employment facilities to the ex-servicemen particularly belonging to Ajmer, Merada and Jhunjhunu areas of Rajasthan and to provide special Scholarships to their school going children.] (90)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services-Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide special Assistance from Army Welfare Fund to those helpless personnel who are sent home before completing their pensionable service on account of disbanding the battalions.] (91)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA (Cuttack): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re .1."

[Failure to enforce one rank one pension scheme for the Ex-Servicemen.] (84)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced to Re.1."

[Failure to restore the ad-hoc increase in the pensions to the Defence Pensioners granted by the Government on the 13th October, 1990.] (85)

SHRI RAO RAM SINGH (Mahindergarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Sir, the armed forces of India deserve the gratitude of the whole nation for carrying out a magnificent job ever since Independence. The primary responsibility of the armed forces is to keep the borders of the country inviolate. Apart from this the armed forces have been employed in numerous other tasks such as in the aid of civil power, going to rescue of neighbouring countries, anti-terrorism and helping civilian population in fighting natural calamity. All these multifarious duties have been carried out by the three Services with extreme courage, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice.

The Indian Army in particular have proved themselves second to none time the time again. The operation carried out in Maldives a couple of years back showed planning and execution of the highest order. In fact, it was reminiscent of the much publicised and highly praised action undertaken by Israeli armed forces at Entebbe. In the recent operations of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, the officers and jawans not only showed exemplary bravery and courage but tackled a difficult situation in a most tactful manner.

Whilst on the subject it will not be out of place to mention that the tendency to use the

[Sh. Rao Ram Singh]

armed forces too frequently in aid of civil power should be strictly checked. At present our armed forces are totally a political. But too much involvement in anti-terrorist activities and in the aid of civil power will tend to politicise the Army and its main task of defending the integrity of the country will suffer adversely. I am sure the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister will agree that the task of maintaining law and order should be carried out either by the local police or by the paramilitary forces. The Army should only be called out as a last resort and that too as far as possible only for carrying out flag marches as a show of strength to restore confidence and morale of the civilian population. As a rule, the Army should never get entangled in street fighting against our own citizens as has happened in the past, sometimes.

Sir, the scenario of power balance in the world is undergoing a rapid transformation. With the reduction of armaments, both in the Western and Eastern blocs, the arms race between the Super-Powers, appears to have come to an end. The major military Pacts, like the NATO and the Warsaw, have been rendered redundant. India's policy of non-alignment stands fully vindicated. However, new alignments are bound to take place. The smart arms dealers of the world and the multi-national giants manufacturing armaments will create lobbies and use pressures to find new markets for their lethal merchandise. India will have to remain doubly alert to ensure that the power balance in South-East Asia does not shift to our detriment.

In this context, our planners will have to take a hard look at our nuclear policy, although India is committed to the principles of *Panchsheel* and our peace-loving intentions are well-known. still, we must have adequate deterrent to safeguard peace in South-East Asia. It is now almost confirmed that Pakistan has developed a nuclear capability although,

they still lack a delivery system. But this is a matter of grave concern. In these circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that we should go in for a nuclear option. India is now a matured democracy and our Leaders should be able to convince the world opinion that the possession of a nuclear deterrent by India will be the surest way of ensuring lasting peace in this region.

I will now take a few other points. The first one is about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Successive Governments have been trying to tackle this situation but I am sorry to say with a little success. The crux of the problem lies in the training camps for these terrorists established in Pakistan. Unless we can dismantle those training camps, this problem will remain. I have some experience in the Army and in Intelligence Services in the Army and I think the Old adage that attack is the best means of defence still holds good.

I do not know whether I am divulging any secrets of the Government of India because I am not in the knowledge of any.

I would say the best way of stopping Pakistan from training these terrorists and sending them into India is for India to start training Afghans, Pukhtoons and Mujahaddins of Karachi and infiltrate them there so that Pakistan realises what it is to create trouble in another country.

I would like to say a few words about allocation of funds. I think Mr. Khanduri has also mentioned about it. R & D is the most important organisation, as far as armed forces are concerned. And I think it is imperative for us to indigenise the production of heavy armaments, combat aircrafts and fighting ships for our Navy. The allotment for the R & D is, I feel, too meagre. We have been hearing of the main battle tanks and the light combat aircrafts. If I am not wrong, I think, for the last at least 15 years, we have been

hearing about it. The prototype which was thought of 15 years ago, if it is produced today, it will be obsolete; by the time it comes into service, it will be obsolete. That means battle tanks and light combat aircrafts will be totally obsolete; and all that money spent on the designing, R & D will be the money sunk into the Indian Ocean. From my experience in the Army all I can say is that what we require is much simpler and sturdier weapons, because, finally, it is the man behind the weapon who counts. However sophisticated a weapon may be, if the man behind the weapon is not adequately trained, then that weapon is of no use at all.

I had witnessed personally the war in 1965. I carried out an attack in the Ichhogial Canal. My boys were only armed with simple rifles and stenguns; and the people in front were armed with the latest sophisticated weapons from America; and within two hours, I made them run across the Ichhogial Canal and captured five villages of Pakistan within two hours with all their most sophisticated equipments. I think the strength of the Indian Army today is our jawans and our young officers. Our young officers were in front when I was attacking the Ichhogial Canal and the officers of the Pakistani Army. It was five miles away from Lahore. The next day I went there to collect some of the dead bodies which were lying across the Canal, I asked about our officers. They said, "Our officers are all in Lahore." So, I think the main strength of our Army is our men; and with indigenous production of simpler and tougher weapons, the training will be simpler. The maintenance will also be simpler. Now you have one weapon coming from America, another coming from France, another set of weapons coming from Russia. So, the maintenance of these weapons goes haywire; and the training also goes haywire.

See what has happened to Pakistani battle tanks. No one of their crew members knows how to operate the radar and other

gadgets in the battle tank. So, I think, it is most important that our R & D pulls up their trousers and starts doing some real work; they have been doing good work. I don't say, no. The hon. Defence Minister is here. I would say that the main battle tank will be the deciding factor in any further war that may be thrust upon us.

The tanks that we have got in the Army at present, if they start moving up to the forward locality, probably the tracks will fall off; they are so ancient.

14.00 hrs.

My next point is that the percentage of Defence expenditure as compared to the total expenditure has been steadily going down since 1987 while that of Pakistan has been steadily going up and the size and armaments of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force have almost doubled in the last two or three years.

I agree that our financial position as has been brought out by the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister is not very happy. But can we afford to be lax in the allotment for the security of our country when our neighbours are building up very rapidly? I think, that I would request the Defence Minister, Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to pay particular attention to this and to see that our Army and its two sister services are not run down under any circumstances.

As far as the Indian Navy is concerned, I think that with our strategic location vis-a-vis the Indian Ocean the Indian Navy should have a predominant position in this Southern Ocean. At present we have two Fleets, the Western Fleet and the Eastern Fleet. In my opinion we should start the nucleus for a third Fleet. It may be named the Southern or any other suitable name may be given. But unless we have another fleet and it makes its presence felt in the Indian Ocean we will be

[Sh. Rao Ram Singh]

lagging behind in our duty. I think now with the agreement between the Super Powers, one hopes that probably their presence in the Indian Ocean will be scaled down gradually and a vacuum will be created. If the American Navy and the Russian Navy, they run down their presence in the Indian Ocean a vacuum will be created and unless that vacuum is filled up by us, there will be somebody else all too willing to fill it up. I would say that this should be done soon - it has to be done sooner than later - and this would pay us dividends.

Coming to the allocation for the Navy, I feel that it is adequate. But I would like to suggest a drastic change. We have got two Carriers, the *Vikrant* and the *Viraat*. These two carriers are literally fossilized ships. The life of a carrier is normally about 20 to 25 years and then if we give it a few injections and carry out some renovations it may last for 25 to 30 years. I think that the *Vikrant* must be about 48 or 50 years old. It was the weakness of Lord Mountbatten that in 1961 or so this ship which had already been mothballed by the British Navy was purchased by us. Lord Mountbatten had a sentimental attachment for it and he got the Indian Navy to buy this Carrier, but it is a fossilized ship. It is costing the Indian Navy a lot; they are paying through the nose for it. The public is paying through the nose. There is no use, as far as this Carrier is concerned from the Defence requirement point of view.

I would like to quote a few things with your permission. Vice Admiral Krishnan, one of our very Senior Naval Officers said:

"The *Vikrant* can never survive and operation in the Arabian Sea with Pakistan's modern submarines on the prowl."

This is what our own senior Naval Offi-

cer says, that this *Vikrant* can never survive any operation. That is about *Vikrant*.

About Carriers, Admiral Rickover of the U.S. Naval might described to the Senate thus:

"In a war a carrier should not be expected to last more than two days."

Just two days! The maintenance of one carrier alone costs crores and crores of rupees. I think the maintenance of these two carriers casts Rs. 5 lakhs per day for each carrier. Rs. 5 lakhs a day for each carrier! And they are of no use. They are only showpieces. I think, - I would ask for forgiveness of the naval officers if I am stepping their toes - the two carriers are only used as showpieces during their annual public relations exercise when all the VVIPs are called there and taken with bugle blowing.

In 1961, HMS Hercules, renamed *Vikrant*, was acquired by India because of the Mountbatten factor. I think, similar was the case with the *Viraat*. It was not much of use for us. But, I think, Britain wanted to get rid of it. And the amount of renovation, the cost that India is paying for the renovation of this ship is something colossal. With that amount, I think, we can get some destroyers and even the frigates of the Godavari class, they would make a better force added to our submarine force. As far as I think, the job of a carrier was to overseas the colonial powers because where air power cannot reach out and the British colonialism and the American colonialism, they had to have aircraft carriers. And where our maritime interests are involved, where our defence is involved, our shore based aircraft perhaps with air refueling can reach out much more than what our real requirement is. Therefore, it would be my suggestion that these two carriers can be mothballed and instead we get some real good destroyers, frigates and submarines.

In this respect, I would to say one thing. Although I do not agree with all the policies of our friends sitting there, but what Maj. Gen. Khanduri has said, I must congratulate him. He has brought out some very good points. But in the BJP election manifesto there was a grandeur agenda for a blue water navy for India. I think, a blue water navy is neither necessary nor affordable as far as India is concerned. And all we require is to protect our territorial waters, to protect our fishing, to protect our coastline. We have a vast coastline. But we do not want a blue water navy which will sail to the Atlantic and to the Pacific and carry out a show of strength in those areas.

Sir, the strides made by our missile delivery systems are, I think, highly commendable. In modern warfare, the first battle that takes place is the battle for air supremacy. We should increase the allocations for our Air Force. I hope the Navy would not think that I am saying this because I am an Army man. And what I am saying is purely from what my studies had indicated to me. I think, the allocations for the Air Force should be increased so that we have an adequate number of fighter aircrafts to outmatch Pakistan in order to ensure complete air supremacy, supremacy of the skies in the very initial phases of any war that may be thrust upon us in the neat future. In a nutshell whilst unequivocally declaring our desire for peace, we should make it quite clear that we have the capability in the air, on the high seas and on land to flatten out anyone who would cast a covetous eye on our territory or our territorial waters.

I do not want to give the impression that I am a hawk but neither am I a duck. I see that patriotism is at a very low premium these days. I have a dream that when the talk turns to India at international forums, it should be with honour and pride. And Indians living abroad should have a pride in calling themselves Indians. I think, this is only possible if

we have a presence of our Armed Forces. And our diplomatic relations are such that we command respect at all international forums. Unfortunately, in my various travels abroad, I have found this fact sadly lacking. Neither are Indians abroad proud to call themselves Indians nor do I feel that we have the honour and respect at international forums that a country with our background, with our history and with our present position should have.

Finally, I would like to highlight a few points concerning the morale and well-being of our Armed Forces and ex-servicemen. The Forces have no organisation to ventilate their grievances. They cannot agitate for their demands. But this does not means that the demands are not there. The demands are very much there and we should all sit up and take notice of these very justified demands before it is too late. I feel that we tend to take our Armed forces for granted which I think, is a mistake.

Some of the points concerning the morale and well-being of the Armed Forces have very ably been brought out by General Khanduri. The first and foremost demand that is agitating the mind of everybody is one rank one pension. I am told that the amount involved is Rs. 250 crores. I think, the pension allocation is something like Rs. 900 crores to Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 250 crores does not appear to be a very high figure in that. In any case, it is a diminishing commitment because those Second World War veterans and the Kashmir Operation veterans are dying out very fast. They will all be dead and gone in another ten years time. So I would request the Defence Minister - I think, the Defence Minister is actually very much agreeable to it; I think, it is the Finance Minister who has to be persuaded to see that something is done in this regard. I think, in the past too promises have been made. I think, the political leadership has shown a great inclination to grant these people their justified dues. But it is the bureaucracy which

[Sh. Rao Ram Singh]

is the stumbling block. I can say even today that the political leadership the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister - is in favour of granting this, but the bureaucrats will not let it happen because they are ruling the country today and not the politicians.

I agree that the financial position of the country is bad. Therefore, I request the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister not to give them cash but give them Defence Bonds. We have been told by the Finance Minister that the financial position in two years will become rosy. So give them Defence Bonds to be encashed after five years when the position will be more rosy and you can afford to give them more. So do not give them money, give them Defence Bonds which these poor people can encash just before they die so that it can be used for their funeral. Give them this, I would beg of you.

My next point is housing. Most of the Army is located in field areas or operational areas as they are called. Nobody expects that you build housing for them on the Siachin Glacier. But the normal rotation is that for three years a unit is in the operational area and for three years it is in a peace area. At least give them housing when they come on a three-year tenure in a peace area. The situation of housing for officers is bad enough, but the situation of housing for the jawans is deplorable. A Jawan is recruited at the age of 17 and 18 and he retires at the age of 35 or 40. Now, in that 17 or 20 years whatever it is, I am sure, 90 per cent of the Jawans do not get one month's time to live with their families because there is no accommodation available even in the peace cantonments. Therefore, I would again request the Defence Minister to launch a campaign to see that adequate housing is built for the units located in cantonments and peace areas, at least 50 per cent of the jawans should be able to live with their families when they

come for their three years tenure in peace areas.

My next point is about education for the children of the armed forces. Every army officer is running three establishments. He is running his own establishment; his wife is running one establishment and the children are in boarding school somewhere, but at least they are in the boarding school. But, most of the service officers and men's children cannot hope to get schooling at all because there is no accommodation anywhere. Therefore, I would suggest that more sainik schools should be there. I think, you should fix a target of at least one or two sainik schools per district to start with, so that the children of the serving officers and men can hope to receive adequate reasonable education.

My next point is a very small one. It is the order of precedence. Now, this does not cost the Government a penny. In the old days, for example, in the lower level, a Deputy Commissioner or a Superintendent of Police in the District was equated to a Major in the Army, in the order of precedence, in the list published by the Government. Now, our wonderful bureaucrats they say, "these army chaps are junglees. So, they have no right to be ranked so high in the order of precedence. So, a Deputy Commissioner or a Superintendent of Police was equated with the Lt. Colonel, then with a Colonel and then with a Brigadier, and similar things went on at the higher level. So, I would again request the Defence Minister that a group may be set up to examine this order of precedence.

As a Second Lieutenant when I used to go on leave, the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police used to be standing there to receive me when I used to reach the railway station. Today, if a General goes on leave and if he goes to a Thanedar or a Tahsildar, the Tahsildar will say.

[Translation]

Ok, wait outside for half an hour. I will see if I have time after that.

[English]

This is humiliation for the officers and senior people of the army. I think some corrective actions should be taken in this respect. At least these people are defending our borders, giving their lives and living the hardest life that is possible.

Our hon. Defence Minister had been to Siachen Glacier and I had been also there. The life is so hard there that before a thing reaches the ground it becomes frozen, it will not come out because everything is frozen. In the Siachen Glacier they decided to heat up the latrines. So, they heated up the latrines. Then the problem was that

[Translation]

if a person goes there to ease himself he does not come out

[English]

Because it was nice and comfortably heated inside. So, he will not come out.

So, I request all the hon. Members of the House that in your constituency whenever any serving personnel, ex-serviceman comes, kindly give them special priority and look after their interests. If they want a bag of cement, they go from door to door and nobody listens.

[Translation]

He makes requests Sir, I am here on 15 days leave. Kindly get me at least 5 bags of Cement so that I can construct something in my house.

[English]

My other point is - when I was the Vice-President of the Ex-Officers League, then also I had been fighting for it - the reservation for the representatives of Ex-servicemen in legislatures. I think our leader Rajiv Gandhi was kind enough to have accepted this thing and an Ex-serviceman was once nominated to the Rajya Sabha. But I think after his term expired, the practice has gone by default. So, on this question I would request for the support of the whole House that there should be a provision for the representatives of Ex-servicemen in State Legislatures as well as in the Rajya Sabha.

My next point is regarding recruitment for the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are part of the mainstream of this country.

[Translation]

Corruption is so rampant that even the Services are affected.

[English]

The recruitment has become so corrupt and it need not be so. What happens is.

[Translation]

That when a person approaches the recruitment Centre the agent demands Rs. 10,000 for recruiting him

[English]

What I suggest is very simple. Have recruitment *melas*. Announce one week before that there will be a recruitment *mela*, say, at Agra. Ten recruiting officers and ten medical officers - so that they have no opportunity to take some hush money - should reach there and the chest, weight and height of the thousands of men will gather in that *mela* should be measured and hundred, two

[Sh. Rao Ram Singh]

[Translation]

hundred or whatever number is required, should be immediately recruited, and before anybody gets a chance to take some hush money, they should be given the railway warrant and set off to their respective units.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: There is another system which used to be in existence, which is a better system, called Regimental Recruiting Parties. That has been stopped. I do not know for what reason. They could select the best people and they are the people who want best people to be selected. All this has been stopped now. I do not know why the Government has stopped it.

RAO RAM SINGH: This has not been stopped. What has happened is that they are given a very little percentage, about ten per cent or something like that, of the total requirement.

AN HON. MEMBER: Five per cent.

RAO RAM SINGH: Five per cent or something like that. But they can be given fifteen per cent of the total requirement. If I am commanding a Maratha unit, which I was, then if I have got to recruit the Marathas for my battalion, I will make sure that they are the fiercest-looking and the toughest-looking chaps that I recruit. I think these are the two methods that I would suggest - recruiting *melas* and giving more percentage of requirement to the various regimental centres so that they recruit their own chaps.

My final point is about the medical facilities, especially for Ex-servicemen. The beds in the Army Hospitals are so limited that they can hardly cater to the requirements of the serving personnel. When an Ex-serviceman goes to a military hospital, he is told that

'No bed is vacant please go'.

[English]

So, I would request that where there is a heavy concentration of Ex-servicemen - you will have all the statistics with you, I am sure - start small hospitals in a limited way, where Ex-servicemen can be given adequate hospitalisation facilities.

I have already made an appeal and, in the end, I would once again make an appeal to all the hon. Members of this House to pay special attention to the problems of Ex-servicemen. I am glad to see that of late, our friends in the BJP especially have suddenly exposed the cause of all the Ex-servicemen. I think this is really to the good. But it should not only be for political purposes, it should also be for their welfare... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: It is not suddenly, Sir. It was in our election manifesto, even in the earlier one.

SHRI RAO RAM SINGH: I would like to end with a quotation. In the Kashmir operation in 1947-48, I was serving with a very famous soldier by name Brigadier Usman. He was sort of a godfather to me. This was in Jhangad and Naushera area. Brig. Usman had an idea in his brain. He was always planning to go behind the enemy line or go and attack the enemy dump. And we were suffering a lot of casualties. So, one day I told him: "What are we achieving here, suffering so many casualties? Why don't we go a little slow? Let them attack and then we will give them a bloody nose. Then this is what Brig. Usman said:

"And how can man die better than facing fearful odds for the ashes of this fathers and the temples of his gods".

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the very beginning I would like to welcome our new Defence Minister Shri Sharad Pawar who has taken over the Defence Ministry with his administrative experience and with his well-known dynamism. Since he took charge, he has been visiting various units and even forward areas. He has even gone to the most difficult areas where our Jawans are posted to take care of our security and our country's defence.

We are discussing the Grants of the Defence Ministry at a time when our borders are becoming very sensitive and very hot, particularly with Pakistan.

The Annual Report which has been presented to the house gives the impression of an out-dated report. They should have taken care that at least certain latest things which have happened should have been mentioned there. If you read even the second Part "Organisation and Functions of the Defence Ministry and Defence Plan", in the first paragraph it reads as follows:

"The Raksha Mantri, who is the head of the Ministry, is assisted by Raksha Rajya Mantri in the discharge of his functions. Shri V.P. Singh and Dr. Raja Ramanna demitted their offices of Raksha Mantri and Raksha Rajya Mantri, respectively, on November 10, 1990. Shri Chandra Shekhar, the Pradhan Mantri, is holding the portfolio of Raksha Mantri since then".

It is not that today Shri Sharad Pawar is holding the charge of Defence Ministry but Shri Chandra Shekhar is holding the charge of the Defence Ministry. This is what the Report says. They should have updated the Report, at least in certain things. they should

take care.

SHRI RAM KAPSE(Thane): That is a friendly act.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: I would say that today the Defence Ministry has to work out a new defence strategy. In view of the changing international security environment and in view of the changing co-relation of forces on the international level. The world has entered in a post-cold war era. It is not a cold-war era. It is also not an era where two super Powers are confronting each other and there is a nuclear race which frightened the entire humanity. It is a welcome development that the cold war has ended. Hopefully, there will be no more confrontation on the world level and there should be lessening of tension. This is the situation on the international level. But, in our region there is a different situation I think that it has become one of the most sensitive areas.

Because of the rulers of Pakistan who are adopting a confrontationist policy, we should have always in our mind that the rulers of Pakistan when they were confronted with their domestic problems, always try to Internationalise Kashmir issue they exploit anti-Indian feeling in their own country to meet their own domestic problem and that is exactly what is happening today. I wish that the defence Minister should have given us a brief survey of the present situation in the very beginning.

I was listening B.B.C. this morning, and the B.B.C. says that in the latest confrontation with Pakistan, 30 Indian soldiers were killed. I would like to know from the Defence Minister what is the truth? We have been reading in the newspapers that during the last few weeks, the Pakistani Armed Forces have been trying to infiltrate into our territory, not only to infiltrate, but to attack a certain chowkis and also to give a cover to the extremists and terrorists of Jammu and

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

Kashmir, who are trained in Pakistan, whose number is supposed to be more than 5000, still in Pakistan trained to be sent to India to foment trouble. This is being done to give cover to those terrorists so that they can infiltrate into the Indian territory.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is your suggestion?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Just wait. I have just started.

Therefore, I am saying that I am sure that this factor must have been taken into consideration. But, Sir, I find that Government's assessment regarding Pakistan's intention is a confusing assessment. It is not only that we should strengthen our Armed Forces, Air Forces and Naval Forces and meet the situation. The Defence and security of the country today has become a matter of major diplomacy. If we fail in diplomacy, if we do not educate the world opinion that we are on the right and our opponents are on the wrong, then we will not be able to do justice with our Defence. What happened in Gulf countries is a lesson for us. The United States of America and its allies were able to convince the world that Iraq was on the wrong and Erg committed aggression on a small neighbouring country and therefore, to send an army and to attack Iraq was a war for justice. It was a war to safeguard the sovereignty of a small nation, it was a war according to the Charter of the United Nations Organisation. Now, what is being said in this Report in paragraph 8 is 'Pakistan has continued to pursue procurement of military hardware and technology from developed countries far beyond its legitimate Defence requirements'. This we have been saying for decades that Pakistan was building its army, it is purchasing armaments much beyond its requirement for the defence of its own country. We have no business to tell Pakistan that

'you need this much, you cannot go beyond that'. Do you think that Pakistan is going to listen to us? India cannot dictate Pakistan as to what is their requirement, how much Pakistan should purchase and how much Pakistan should not purchase. Nobody is going to be convinced by your sermons. When you go on purchasing, when you modernise your Army and when you get the latest armaments, you cannot ask the neighbouring country not to purchase beyond a limit.

The report further says:

"In addition, it has continued with its clandestine and weapons-oriented nuclear programme and its efforts to acquire ballistic missiles and technology. In this, it is reported to be availing of Chinese assistance."

if this is our report that Pakistan is being helped and aided by China in these clandestine activities and also it is acquiring ballistic missiles technology from China, it is very necessary to see the next paragraph of the report. It says:

"India's relations with China registered a perceptible improvement".

I would like from the Defence Minister to please let us know as to whether the Government of India has taken up this issue with the Government of China. We are negotiating and our relations are improving. But on the other hand, when Pakistan is trying to help the terrorists across the border, when Pakistan is trying to create trouble for us in Jammu and Kashmir and when Pakistan had been ruled by the Army Generals for the major part of its independence, why should China supply ballistic missiles and technology? I would like to know whether we have taken up this matter with the Government of China or not.

in the next paragraph, the report says:

"China's modernisation of the People's Liberation Army continues with special focus on the induction of advanced military technology and the establishment of joint ventures with Western countries and the Soviet Union. Sale of arms to countries in our immediate neighbourhood and elsewhere is likely to hamper the process of de-escalation of regional tensions."

This is another observation about China. China is supplying arms to our neighbouring country and they are modernising their Army. After all, with whom did we fight wars? It is with Pakistan and China. Now, your assessment is that both these countries are going in for full-fledged modernisation and they are developing their nuclear-weapon technology. We would like to have a very clearcut policy pronouncement from our Defence Minister as to what is our policy about nuclear-weapons programme. Everybody knows that we are not for war and we are for peace. But, can we be caught unaware by these countries? They may, in a particular situation, create problems for us. What is our preparation for that?

Sir, it is well-known that India's defence structure was built basically with the help of the Soviet Union. According to my information, about 70 percent to 85 per cent of our armaments, our fighters, our tanks and our military technology are dependent on the Soviet aid. Now, the Soviet Union is in turmoil. Soviet Union is facing problems. What we have been hearing during the last two or three months, it is very disturbing. Mr. Defence Minister, that a consistent campaign has been launched by some of our officers of the External Affairs Ministry against Soviet Union and against Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev saying that they are not helping us for the last two years, they are very unsympathetic to us. "They are creating

problems for us to get spareparts to some of our MIGs, tanks and other important things". This kind of campaign against a friendly country which helped us from the very beginning to build our Defence structure in our country is not good. Do you think that this kind of campaign is not going to create problems for us?

I am told, even today if we have to do the necessary replacement of purchasing necessary spareparts from the Soviet Union, we need one lakh crores of rupees. And the Soviet Union has its own economic difficulties. They perhaps proposed a few months before: "Please help us. Do not make all purchase on credit only. But pay us for the part payment and the other part payment, perhaps, you may pay in hard currency." When they were trying to persuade us in a friendly manner, we were trying to use the situation against them. I think, this kind of campaign is a dangerous one.

According to my information, when the new political change took place in the Soviet Union, when the handful of people tried to commit a coup, at that time our Defence Minister was given a message by our Ambassador in Moscow, "This coup has come to stay. The Army is very strong. The Army is going to continue. Please send the message to the new Defence Minister, congratulatory greetings to the new Defence Minister of the Coup." Perhaps the minister was wise not to send it. I am telling you, this kind of wrong assessment, this kind of bureaucratic approach cost heavily so far as our Defence preparations are concerned.

I would like to know this from the Defence Minister. We have been trying our best to be friendly with the United States of America. We never thought that the United States of America is our enemy. But because of our policy that we were championing the cause of newly liberated countries, we were one of the founder-nations of Non-aligned

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

Movement, we were trying to build and help the newly liberated countries, United States of America was never friendly with us and they were deliberately trying to help those forces which were undemocratic and military forces. Last Year, the United States of America gave to Pakistan 575.9 million dollars which included 230 million dollars direct military assistance. Are we taking up these issues with the United States of America and other countries when we are trying to see that at the international level, the tensions are lessened? There are agreements which are reached such as of Start agreement at Moscow that lessens certain pressure on the international community. At this point of time, to continue with this massive assistance to a neighbouring country is causing concern. In my opinion, America is still playing a double role. They express verbal sympathy with us. They will say that they do not like Pakistan should train the Kashmir terrorists and they are against the training. They are against Pakistan creating a climate of war against India. But, on the other hand, when it comes to real help, they will give dollars, they will give modern weapons to Pakistan and they also give indirectly these weapons through other countries.

Pakistan is trying to internationalise Kashmir issue. This is a dangerous situation. In my opinion, our Government has miserably failed on this front in that we have not been able to create a world opinion in our favour and isolate Pakistan.

The impression that is gathered is that we are holding Kashmir only with the help of our army. It is not good for us. When there is a serious situation, army has to intervene and army has to take care of our border. But the law and order situation is not the task of army. The army should be called for in very rare situation. My fear is that there is an increasing demand for the army. The State

Governments, at every step, whether to control communal riots or to control certain law and order situation, even if it is the strike of the working class or some movements which are going on, find it easy to request the army to come and assist the law and order agencies in the States. This is not a happy situation. This should be minimised. There should be other agencies to take care of the law and order situation.

In this situation there is always a danger. The danger is in a place like Kashmir, if the army is there, for all the time, then there is the danger of certain forces exploiting that situation on religious grounds and they can say "Look here. This is the army with a special character. This army has no sympathy for the common people." That kind of religious fanaticism can be generated to create a situation against the army and that will not be a good thing.

Therefore, I request the Defence Minister that he should take up this issue with the Chief Ministers that the army and military should not be sent too often to help the law and order agencies in the States. It should be sent only in a very rare situation, when it becomes absolutely necessary.

It is high time that we should have a conscientious approach towards our defence policy. Defence has never been an issue of party politics in this country. This has been our biggest strength. Whenever there was war either with China or with Pakistan, the entire nation stood as one man, as one person. We cannot win the war, we cannot fight the war, only with the help of army. Yes. Our army has a great and glorious tradition. Our jawans have proved to be one of the best soldiers. Our army has been a political army and in our country that is a great strength. They never lack patriotism. They have full support of our people. Today the time has come again that we should try to evolve a national defence policy on the basis of na-

tional consensus on how to work out the new strategy. I am sorry to say that in your report, you have not worked out the strategy. I hope that when you reply you may be able to give us some strategy. The last line of the report says:

The rapidly changing external environment necessitates a carefully crafted strategy to safeguard and promote our national security".

What is that carefully crafted strategy has not been spelt out here. I hope when you please speak, you must give us also at least some idea about what is our strategy to meet this particular situation in this international environment and in this region and also with our neighbours.

This is important. I think that when the next report is presented, when you continue to be the Defence Minister, these things will be taken necessary care of. Because, now these things are treated lightly. The House is taken for a ride. I hope the present Defence Minister will continue in his post. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, there is another thing which is very important. Much has already been mentioned about that.

I am sorry that I was not here when Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri was speaking. But I heard col. Rao Ram Singh supporting that issue. I think Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri took up that issue and that issue is about one-rank-one-pension. This is one important issue which is agitating the minds of the ex-servicemen and even the present army men also. I think the whole House will agree to this that we have to take full care of our soldiers as also our ex-servicemen because they have made enormous contributions to take care of security and defend the

sovereignty of our country. I think this issue was very seriously discussed by the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government. Certain decisions were taken. Up to the level of *Subedar* one-rank-one-pension was accepted. Even officers issues were being considered. It was accepted, in principle. So, we have to do that now. It is good that almost all the political parties have supported this demand. I am glad that the Prime Minister has also understand the importance of this demand. He has started consulting the leaders of various Opposition Parties. I think without losing much time, the Defence Minister should make an announcement about it. While replying to the debate, the Defence Minister should at least announce his intention to help them. Those decisions which had already been taken, at least they can be announced. It does not matter whether the Government which took the decision remains in power today or not. But that was a Government and that Government took an important decision for a very important sector of our nation. Therefore, that decision has to be accepted. May be some other methods also can be found out to go into the genuine demands of the officers and the ranks. We should take a unanimous decision on that. I think that is very important. That must be done.

While concluding, I will support what Rao Ram Singh has said. I give my full support to that. He raised the issues regarding facilities to be provided to our jawans, especially the housing facilities. Most of the time, the General Administration is very insensitive so far as jawans are concerned. In spite of many directives and many instructions which have gone to the State Government; not much is done. There are instructions that if a serving jawan faces a problem in his family like the land problem, some atrocities committed on them, some people doing injustice to him, immediate attention should be paid. If a jawan is working on the front, if he is in the active service and all the

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

time if certain problems are on his head, if his family is being harassed, his land is being taken away by somebody, some justice should be done in the normal course. But it is not being now now. He cannot function with full efficiency. Therefore, I think it needs new instructions and fresh instructions must go to the State Governments. All the Chief Ministers must be requested that, on a very urgent basis, they should take up those issues which concern the family problems of the jawans.

I will finish by saying one thing. I have a feeling that many of our officers, jawans who have given their lives for the defence of our country don't get due honour. Due honour is not given to them. It is not enough that you give some chakras to them and honour. How many chakras you give? There are many such people. I know in my own District Azamgarh that one Brigadier Usman gave his life in awar against Pakistan. One Shri Saudagar Singh gave his life. But no monument, not even a school or a college is named after them. They have made great sacrifices. I think, we should also evolve some kind of methods to honour such officers and jawans who have given their lives for the country.

With these words, I hope that the Defence Minister will take care, will give necessary priority attention to these problems almost which our people feels highly concerned. With these words, I support the Cut Motion.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir I rise to support the demands.

The international situation has rapidly changed in the past few years, and we are quite aware of it. We must remember that the last three wars were fought in a bipolar scenario. But now that situation no longer

exists. That is why, never before in the history of Indian Independence, are we confronted with such a situation as we are confronted with today. Earlier in a bipolar world scenario, we could rely on our trusted friend, the Soviet Union to provide us with the wherewithal, the equipment and the moral and material support required to conduct operations. But today it is no longer true and India stands completely alone when it comes to facing a national threat. That is why, the emphasis today has to be on selfreliance, on indigenisation of our equipment, on developing a capability wherein we can have such a striking power which will give a nose to any aggressor anyone who casts an evil eye on our frontiers.

In this situation, when we think of Pakistan, we must realise the compulsions of Pakistan also. Why and what is this nation doing? That is what we must see. We must realise that Pakistan has been born on a misconceived idea of nationhood that Hindus and Muslims are two different nations which cannot exist together. That is what the two-nation theory says. That is how the Pakistan was born. And so, the foundation of Pakistan today is on a two-nation theory. That is why, whatever Pakistan does, it does that with this in view. Pakistan itself today is not an integrated country as such. In many parts of Pakistan, there are civil disturbances, ethnic problems, Shia-sunni riots and above all, the democratic process has not taken deep-roots in Pakistan. And that is why, whatever Pakistan would do, it will try to keep its foundation, which is made on a two-nation theory as its base. That is why, when it looks at India, it will never allow Hindus and Muslims in Pakistan to unite ever.

15.00 hrs.

The primary objective of the foreign policy of Pakistan is to keep Hindu and Muslims divided in India, so that India cannot unite, India cannot integrate and India can-

not develop into a powerful nation, which will threaten the very foundation, the very two-nation theory of Pakistan. Because, then the Pakistan will collapse and it will disintegrate, and that is why all this we are seeing today. I would like our friends in various political parties to realise this issue.

Three years ago, I never heard of Ram Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid issue and today it is magnified, out of proportion. Three years ago, in Jammu and Kashmir the situation was not bad. I was serving in Jammu and Kashmir in 1987. But, there is a subtle connection between Babri Masjid-Ramajanmabhoomi and the Kashmir issue.

15.01 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

I want to draw the attention of the House on the Kashmir issue. Today, this House has treated the Defence as a holy cow, not to be touched. But we should realise that these are the issues. Because, if Hindus and Muslims unite, then, our beloved leader Rajivji's idea of a strong, united and modern nation will fructify. And that is why, you must do everything to integrate this nation and bring Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, all ethnic groupings in this country and all divided forces in this country together to form a strong and united India. That is the first objective of our Defence.

When we talk of Ram, I think the greatest Ram Bhakta in this nation was probably Hanuman, who, when he was asked where is Ram, has opened his chest and said Ram is here. So Ram is there; Ram is not in a concrete temple. Ram is highly revered. Why? Because it was Ram who had established Ram Rajya in this country. And what is Ram Rajya? Ram Rajya means giving food, water, shelter and clothing; Ram Rajya is compassion, love, brotherhood; Ram Rajya is the rule of the law, where in all this was given? The methodology of Ram Rajya was

clearly given in our Constitution of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Rights. They tell you, how to bring in Ram Rajya in this country and that is why the only religion of every Indian in this country can be the Constitution of India and that is what we must revere. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): The more you remember God and recite His name, the more you would be benefited. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: That is what I am trying to emphasize. There is a Rule of law also. We cannot transgress it. Why don't you say that you would not agree to the verdict of the court (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I have been so far brought up in a secular tradition of the Armed Forces. And this is a tradition which is essential for integrating this nation and for evolving a strong defence structure. That is way, I am pointing out this specific case here. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Our borders are not safe.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Our defence forces are capable to protect our borders. You need not worry about that. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

I am trying to emphasise this point. We should try to rise above religious, casteist sentiments and that is where and that is how, we can ensure the defence of this country, because the foreign powers are trying to destabilise this nation; are trying to disintegrate this nation. Today the threat is not from

[Sh. Sudhir Sawant]

outside; today the threat is from within and that is why I am trying to emphasise here. Because, when you evolve a security policy, we must keep in mind not only what external threats are there but, also the internal threats which are trying to disintegrate this nation.

Today in this country what is the forum that is taking stock of all these issues? When you talk of national security in the present multipolar world environment where various forces are coming to disintegrate this nation, what is that particular forum which is taking stock of all these situations, to evolve short-term and long-term security policy which can be effectively implemented?

We have heard about the National Security Council. In this annual report it has been written that it has been constituted. But the way the National Security Council has been constituted, I don't think will cater to all the situations. I agree that today we require this National Security Council; but it must be broad-based. In this Council we must have people from various fields because defence is not the job of pure military. Defence of a country is the job of various streams, various Ministries which have to come together and evolve a security policy. That is why we must have a relook and rethinking about the whole issue of constituting the National Security Council in a manner that it can serve the cause of the nation.

One more point about the National Security Council is, how is our security plan formulated, Defence policy formulated? That is what is material. What is required is a realistic assessment of the international and internal situation. How can this be done? By sound intelligence, by sound assessment of everyday problems or the sound assessment of the economy and the science of what science provides in future. So where does this assessment stand when we talk

about the intelligence part of it? I will not go into the details of this issue. I would rather sadly say that today in this country there are multifarious intelligence agencies functioning under various Ministries and most of the time they work at cross-purposes. I don't think that the situations that obtain today, the intelligence organisations that obtain today, are credible enough to give that input to the policy forming body, the National Security Council, to formulate a sound policy.

There is an intense rivalry, there is an intense one-upmanship among various intelligence agencies, causing the true and the real inputs of the intelligence which are required by the policy, makers not reaching them in proper form and in proper time.

That is way when we are constituting the National Security Council, we must constitute and reorganise our entire intelligence structure in a manner that can serve the national security. I would here recommend that there must be a committee of this House to oversee the intelligence functioning. In USA there is a select committee for intelligence; in various other countries also the same is adopted. Because where coordination is required, this House cannot abdicate itself of its responsibility.

There is a lot of talk of politicisation of the armed forces. It should not be politicised. I agree with it. But at the same time the armed forces must be given a political direction. Because, after all what is the essence? The essence is to formulate and determine our national needs, formulate our national strategy and give the military the aim. Then only, based on this aim, can we formulate our military strategy and then develop a force structure required for the defence of this nation. Is this process being followed? I don't think so. But this is the ideal thing to be done and that is where the National Security Council will play a very big role.

The linkage between Pakistan and China is an age-old linkage and there is nothing new in it. In this annual report it has been said that our relations with China are improving, which is a very encouraging sign. We hope that the dispute which exists today can be resolved amicably.

After all, what was the problem between China and India? Why was the 1962 war at all there? On one basic issue that after having occupied Indian territory, whether discussions between India and China should be based on *status quo* or *status quo ante*. We took a position that we must go back to the position of *status quo ante* whereas China insisted that discussions can only be held on the basis of *status quo*. That is why this entire war took place.

I have gone through the speeches made by various leaders and political parties at that time in Parliament. It is very revealing to see that people have said that we will fight to the last man and will not give an inch of Indian territory. A haughty attitude was adopted by the then Opposition. It forced Jawharlal Nehru's hands and we took a haughty stand. That is why the 1962 operation took place. That is why irresponsible statements relating to defence nowadays can cause a major catastrophe. That is why in defence we have all agreed that there should be a consensus of approach when we deal with this aspect.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: You have mentioned about the Opposition's role during the Chinese War. I would like to know your suggestions. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Sir, one simple thing I have already brought out. Probably you have not heard it. I was saying that when the question of talks between two countries comes, we should not harp on *status quo* or *status quo ante*. We must open discussions. If discussions were opened at

the right time during the Chinese war, the war would not have taken place. And a number of soldiers who had laid down their lives fighting at that time as valiant soldiers, would not have been lost.

That is why I was saying that when a statement is made in this House, it should be made with a responsibility and national consensus. In defence matters it is absolutely essential if we are to succeed in any form in defence matters. That is my only appeal to all the political parties at this stage.

Now, everything is not so rosy in Defence. Pardon me because I am just out of uniform. I would not be doing my duty if I do not place the facts before this House. (*Interruptions*) The Official Secrets Act is definitely binding. But what is the problem today? In a new environment, new world order, new sort of threats, new circumstances, we must consider whether we are adapting ourselves to this new environment. What has happened? Our armed forces unfortunately are based on the British pattern. Today, the infrastructure, attitudes, ethos and culture of the armed forces have largely remained British. If we go to any army unit, in many objects and in the conversation, you will find a British touch. It is nobody's fault. We do not blame anyone. But it is there.

Today, the requirement is that we must change to the Indian conditions. Today the requirement is that we must adapt ourselves to the security needs of the country. For example, I give you drill. Why is drill at all there in the Army? In the olden days, wars were fought by phalanx. That was the battle order. They advanced in a proper order. That is why the drill at all came to exist in the Army. We are still continuing with it. There is nothing wrong with it. You must have all the ceremonials. But we must not overdo it. That ceremonial part of the armed forces must be decreased. So, we must develop fresh attitudes to reorganise our basic structure. Then

[Sh. Sudhir Sawant]

only we can evolve a defence structure which is credible, which has the requisite punch and which is modern. Let me say here and let me emphasise that in the Defence forces, we have got excellent soldiers, excellent junior officers and human forces who are prepared to do the ultimate sacrifice and lay down their lives for this country. But I cannot say the same thing for Generalship. Let us trace the history of wars that have been fought so far. In 1962 what had happened was each soldier and each junior officer fought to the last line and to the last bullet. But we failed in Generalship. In 1965 operations, I, for one, am from a unit which was surrounded in the morning by tanks and massacre took place and 50 per cent were taken as prisoners for no fault of theirs. It was because they captured the railway station by marching throughout the night. There was no coordination, there was no planning and the tanks did not fetch up in the morning and so, the Pakistani tanks surrounded the units. There was no direction. In 1965, in Chamb sector, we lost. But hopefully, in 1965, it was a stalemate. We did not lose as the other side was equally capable as we were in the Generalship aspect. In 1971 war, we won. But we must look at one aspect here. Let us consider Bangladesh. It was a creditable performance by their forces. At this stage, I have just got one doubt. Could the Bangladesh operations not have been over a week before they were actually over? Whether or not Dhaka was identified as a vital area and or objective for armed forces from the beginning? We advanced from many sides and that is why, I feel that the war prolonged. What Generalship implies is that we must make use of all the available resources and utilise them in such a manner as to achieve victory in the shortest possible time and with the smallest possible casualty rate. This is what Generalship involves. In

Chamb sector, in 1971, the troops did not know as to what they were to do. One brigade was placed across Manovar Tavi and it was told to advance the brigade did not prepare the defences. What had happened? Pakistan attacked and there we had suffered a defeat in Chamb sector and troops had to withdraw. So, in this process, officers right from the Chief down to the Divisional Commander and Brigade Commander were involved. No policy was laid down for that sector. That is why, I want to give a few examples. Otherwise, our forces had done well. But as far as Generalship aspect is concerned, we found that we were lacking. Even Shri Sundarji had said in India Today that a majority of the senior officers are.** This was the statement made by Shri Sundarji in India Today. If this is the situation, then we must again reassess to why the situation is like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sudhir, I think you should not use such words. I think it should be erased from records.

SHRISUDHIRSAWANT: I am sorry Mr. Chairman Sir. But I feel that as part of (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are good officers, had officers and indifferent officers.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I am quoting a General who is a retired Chief of the Army. And that may not be a fact or that may not be so. But I wanted to give an example.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: (Nominated Anglo Indian): Sir, I am on a point of order. I have had the privilege of being in every Defence Council and I think it may be a gross piece of defamation to describe all our Generals as.....* ..

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

MR CHAIRMAN: That is why, I have instructed to erase it from the proceedings.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: Sir, you should expunge that expression from the proceedings. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: (Diamond Harbar) He was only quoting.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: it was not my view. I was quoting a retired Chief of the Army Staff. Why should a Chief of the Army Staff say that? I was talking about the poor generalship and that is why I have to quote the retired Chief.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I wonder whether the role of the Generals should be discussed here in this manner. You please look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every member has got full authority to speak on what he wants to speak.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: It is a question of freedom of speech on the floor of the House.

SHRI RAM JAPSE: I would like to know the reaction of the Chair to the whole thing. You please decide whether it should be discussed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Being in the Chair, I am not in a position to give my reaction. I have already asked to erase those portions which I thought should not have been said?

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Why have I said all this? I want to highlight the said state of affairs. This is the voice of the junior officers and the ordinary troops which I wanted to raise here. I retired as a junior officer, as a major. Here, let me tell you my background in the Army. My experience in

the Army was not what would make me a disgruntled officer. I had done all the courses, I was in the DSSC and I was right there to take my next rank. I am not speaking like a disgruntled officer. But I want to present the reality of the situation. Now you take the case of Siachen operations command by three brigadiers. Brigadier Jat Master was not made a major general. Brigadier Nogna was also an excellent officer. Bana post was captured under his command. After 1971, the Param Veer Chakra was given for Bana operations, successive attacks by Pakistani Forces were repelled. The complete area was transformed. You must know the hostile environment in Siachen, When tonnes of snow fall, it cuts the bodies of the soldiers into pieces and we have to join the pieces for cremation. This is the situation in Siachen and this is the situation in which our troops live. That is why they deserve an able commander who can look after all their requirements. This capable officer who was in the decorated with Uttam Yudh Sewa Medal, who was in the NDC and who was quite deserving, was not approved for promotion to the next rank. I was talking about three successive brigadier commanders. And the third was Brigadier Nanavati. He is an officer who served in difficult areas and in operational matters. But he could not make it to NDC...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you should not mention any names here.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I am quoting all these things because I want to drive home the point about how the senior level structure exists today and what is desirable. These three successive commanders...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not mention the names.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: He is not making any adverse remarks about those officers. He is not accusing them...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not making any accusation against them. In fact, he is praising them. That is why, I thought there is no harm in allowing it...

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We should be clear about the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This pertains to the promotion policy of the Army.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Let me make my submission on this point. This Hon. friend of ours is not criticising the officers. On the other hand, he is praising them. He has every right to name them. He should not be restricted on this point. As per the Rule Book, notice has to be given only when you criticise or intend to criticise. Here, he should be allowed.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Why I have raised this point is because an officer who has served in difficult areas and who has to face challenges of both enemy and nature and combat them, is not considered fit for promotion. But some officer serving in soft areas like Pathankot, Pune or Secunderabad is promoted to the next rank.

What is the justification? Why is this happening? That is why I say that the entire promotion policy must be reviewed. Today, in the Armed Forces, I have to please my boss and then only I can hope for the next rank. If I am straight forward, forthright and if I want to do my duty honestly then I cannot get the next promotion. Today, this psychological fear persists in the minds of the young officers of Indian Army. Are we going to take off this fear or not? That is why I asked whether the political interference in the military is required or not, whether a political direction is required or not. After all, the responsibility of the defence of this country is on the House. Are we not going to look into

the matter? As Rao Ram Singh has also said, if I have any grievance, I have to complain to my superior officer. Then the chain follows. There is a CAB in the Army consisted of only the army officers. I would say that so far as the grievances are concerned, the CAB should be transformed and civilian officers must be placed in this body.

When we are talking about improving the lot of...

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: I will not compliment my friend on what he has said. "I was responsible, so the papers said, for the removal of Krishna Menon as the defence Minister". You take out my speech. I hold him guilty since 1962 because he was the defence Minister who was so generous. He used to note down and interfere in the appointment of Colonels. We made the mistake of getting the worst General we ever had and putting him in command and demoralised the army. Otherwise, we could have easily beaten or demolished them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anthony, there is no point of order. I will definitely give you time to speak, if you want to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: Sir, at that time he blamed me but now he is blaming the whole system.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I was just trying to identify the maladies. There are many plus points also in the armed forces which I will also point out. What I was trying to say is that these are the crucial areas where we must apply our mind and develop a policy to rectify the maladies.

Political interference should not be there in the armed forces but a political direction must be there. What happens today is that if you have good mannerism of a hotel man-

ager you know good English, you can speak on the sand models, you can conduct yourself well socially then you are fit for promotion. Today we do not have the same situation as it was in the olden days. Present day officers are from normal backgrounds. They are patriots, their approach is normal no doubt but my grudge is that the merit must be recognised and only on the basis of merit the promotion policy should be developed as it has a very great impact on the morale of a soldier.

It is the man behind the weapon who is more important than the weapon. We may develop any weapon but if the man is not happy, he is not satisfied, he will not give away his life. We are here talking of the ultimate sacrifice and not of management. We require commanders and not managers. We require commanders who can lead troops into battles and motivate them to sacrifice, if necessary, their lives for the country. This is what we require. It is the Officer cadre which can develop this type of ethos in the Army. That is why I called for a complete review of the defence structure so that we can evolve a particular type of ethos to combat whatever threat that may come to.

Here I would like to mention something about Infantry soldiers. When we talk of Army, when we talk of borders, it is the Infantry soldiers who are fighting on the borders today. So, who is fighting on the borders? It is not the entire Army, it is the poor infantry soldier who is standing and fighting on the border. A Jawan of the Infantry does not even get more than two years to remain in the peace station today. During those two years, he will be posted in Delhi or Pune? What does he do? He does exercises. He is employed to take care of the law and order situation of that particular place. So an Infantry soldier has no respite. He cannot keep his family along with himself. A soldier who is fighting on the border of Siachen, what are we doing for him? Is there

any special incentive for him? Take the question of volunteers. In the Indian Military Academy, in the last fifteen years, you will find that not more than five percent of officers had volunteered for Infantry. Why is it so? Because, it is the cream of the battle. Here, the soldiers are required to charge on the enemy with their rifles, with the tanks. They are required to sacrifice their lives. What are we doing for them? Is there any incentive for them? There is no incentive. That is why I suggest that Infantry Combat Allowances must immediately be introduced. We must give the allowances to the persons who are really working.

A man who is in Supplies Depot and the man who is in the Infantry get the same facility, same pay and same perks. What sort of incentive you are going to give to the people who are really fighting? What is required today is that we must re-assess it and have a totally integrated approach. It is because, Defence is not only the matter concerning military. We must have an approach in certain parameters. These parameters have been gone into in detail by Arun Singh Committee. But when I saw the Terms of Reference, it did not fulfil what I am talking about. I am talking about a complete review. Arun Singh Committee had addressed itself only to a very few problems. What is required today is a complete analysis. It should be done and a proper defence structure should be evolved. How is the Budgetary allocations done today for the defence Forces? We are earmarking a certain amount in the Budget for Defence. Then Demands are made by the forces. And, what is available in the kitty is distributed in some proportions. This should not be the procedure which should be adopted for Defence. Because money is not the only thing that makes the defence structure viable.

There are also criticisms that expenditure on defence should not be reduced. We should not make such blanket statements.

[Sh. Sudhir Sawant]

Why should not the defence expenditure be reduced? If it is possible, it can be reduced. We must see that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sawant, you have already taken forty minutes. Now, you will have to wind up.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I am just concluding within a few minutes.

So, what is required is the organisation of available resources, available work culture for evolving a higher degree of punch and not that the defence expenditure should not be just reduced.

We should take up the following approaches:

(1) We require a young Army. Today, a Commanding Officer of an Infantry Battalion is more than fortytwo-years-old. My Battalion's which went to Siachen-Commanding Officer was fortyfive-years-old. How can you expect such a person to go to such heights like Siachen and fight a battle. So, you require a young Army and you cannot have an aged Army.

(2) We must have a small standing Army but with a large reserve, a reserve which can be mobilised in times of necessity, a reserve which is effective on the borders within a certain time frame. This will be decided by the National Security Council.

(3) We must require a larger punch but with a small tail. Today, out of one million personnel, the Infantry, Armoured Corps and the Artillery constitute just 25 per cent of our Armed Forces.

A majority of them are there. The Ordnance Depot is there; the EME is there; the Medical Corps is there and so on. So, we

must, somehow, look into them. When you talk about the reduction of Defence Budget, then you must think whether all these services are essential.

Today, you are recruiting jawans who are matriculates. Why do you require educational services in the Army? As far as Educational corps in the Army is concerned, I have seen that it teaches young officers in the Indian National Academy and the jawans in Hindi; and that education is considered equivalent to matriculation. It also teaches them map reading. Now map reading is something which can be taught in the Unit by the Professional Officers themselves or the troops; they do not require army education corps.

There should be negligible pension burden on the Defence sector; pension burden is increasing day by day. Today it is Rs. 900 crores. Now, they demand one rank one pension. The demand is justified, but the burden is increasing. What can we do about it? So, this is one premise which we should keep in mind.

In the armed forces, we cannot afford any stagnation; we cannot afford superseded people to be in the armed forces, because a spy if he does not become a Lance Naik, he loses interest in the Army. Do you want him to lay down his life, a person who has got grievances against the Army? How do you expect him to lay down his life? So, we cannot afford to have stagnation in the armed forces; we cannot think of an old Army; we must have commanding officers of 34 or 35 years of age who can run with the troops; that is what is required in the armed forces; we do not required persons only to command young soldiers.

Another thing you must realise is that a person may not be fit to be promoted in the Army, but that person may become a Manager in some public sector company. Why I

am coming to this parameter is that we have to evolve a certain methodology; and my suggestion is that the entire Government service, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, para military forces, police forces, a majority part of this sector must have the enrolment from the armed forces; they must have served in the Army. An IAS Officer must have some tenure in the Army. This is all over the world. In the USSR, a man is first put in the Army; and then he is told to go to a certain place for working.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then all the best officers will go and become Managers.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : The reason being that there is a deficiency of the officers in the armed forces today; and the deficiency only exists in the Captain rank; it does not exist in the senior rank, because there is a stagnation; and this is how you can make it up. Having served in the Army for five years, if a person goes to some other force, what is the harm? He has got excellent training and motivation a national view point; While in the Army, he might have seen so many places. It also promotes national integration.

These factors must be taken into consideration. A Committee must be appointed and you must consider all these points and decide whether we should go in for a younger army or be where it is as we are today.

During the British times, a person had to serve seven years in the Army and eight years in the reserve.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 50 minutes. Kindly wind up.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : When we are reorganising our armed forces, defence forces, again our mind goes into various other things. The Army Supply Corps is there which supplies ration to the Army. A contract

is given for five years and the contractor supplies grains. Why can't the public distribution system of this country supply grains to the Army? You must employ those people in the public distribution system who have already served in the Army. It is not a question of an order. I am just giving a suggestion on this point. They can supply. If a public distribution system has reached the nook and corner of this country, it supply and we must think of alternative supply methods. We cannot have such a supply force for such a small infantry. We must think of reduction and this is where we have to have an integrated approach for all the Ministries.

I now come to the medical facilities. Why can the Health Ministry not take interest in this? There are hospitals manned by Army doctors who were in the Army earlier, and there are also nursing assistants who were in the Army earlier. They are staying in Delhi. They are looking after the patients. They can look after the Armed Forces. Why can the AIIMS not have a section to look after these people?

I am driving at an integrated approach to the EME Electrical and Mechanical Engineers wing of the Army which does the repair work of Army vehicles. Why can we not have some sort of an organization in the civil sector which can do the repair work of the Maruti Gypsy vehicles of the Army? Why can they not do it? Why should we have a particular organisation to do this? And that particular organisation with all the resources about which I am talking can also be available in times of war. The people in the public distribution system will also be available in times of war to serve the Armed Forces.

Coming to the Postal service, there is a large Postal service in the Armed Forces, with one CBPO sitting in Calcutta. If you see their staffing pattern we can find how enormous it is. Can we not have some mechanism by which the existing postal network

[Sh. Sudhir Sawant]

can reach the remotest corners of this country?

Coming to the Intelligence Services, the Military Intelligence has no business to have another covert organisation. Their role is limited and they are not capable. Across the country there are various other agencies which are available and a select committee of this House must go into these factors and think of reorganisation and monitoring of the intelligence activity. I say this because there is lot of unaccounted money being spent there. I will not go into the details as to how it is being done. And that is why we must think about these things.

I have already taken too much time, it seems and I shall mention only few points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I would like to mention One-Rank-One-Pension issue now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last point.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: One-Rank-One-Pension. By this an attempt is being made to equate these pensioners with the pensioners of the other services.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): Why not?

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Article 14 of the Constitution has clearly stated and it lays down equality. But equality among the people who are working in similar circumstances. It is not universal equality. You cannot equate a Scheduled Caste person with a Brahmin. You cannot equate them. That is why we could modify the Constitution; we could amend the Constitution.

So, Article 14 is very clear. The Constitution is very clear. We must look closely at

the Armed Forces personnel and see the conditions they face. They have to spend a major part of their youth away from their families where no civilian can go in our country. Not even a crow flies to the Siachen but our Armed Forces reach the highest battlefield in the history of the world. The Indian Army soldier reaches there and fights to sacrifice his limb and life and that clearly demarcates him from other people in the other sectors. We must think about these conditions and immediately grant the pension demanded. There are no two opinions about it.

I do not agree with what Mr. V.P. Singh's Government had done.

SHRI INDERJIT: Why?

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: It has given only an ad hoc sum. It does not satisfy the demands of ex-servicemen. It is just a dole that is given. We do not want doles. We want justice and justice can only be given if you agree to the principle of one rank and one pension and nothing else. We do not want ad hoc grants.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I am sorry to say that you are not doing even that. It is not a dole. Nobody will give doles to our officers in Army. The Government wanted to meet their demands. It is an insult to say that we are giving doles to our officers and to our soldiers. We do not believe in that.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: The Hon. Defence Minister is known to be a friend of ex-servicemen. He was the first Chief Minister in this country who started giving pension of Rs. 300 to those who were demobilised after the Second World War. Nowhere else it is there. And I am sure his biggest concern today is how to give the soldiers their due. I am certain that he will take all measures in this regard. He was the first Chief Minister in Maharashtra Government to start a depart-

ment for Exservicemen. And that is why, the future of exservicemen is in good hands now and we are sure that we will get our due justice.

I thank you for having patiently heard me and I support the Demands for Grants of the defence Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri R. Ramaswamy.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, it is our turn now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has made a request to the previous Chairman to allow him as he is leaving somewhere and the previous Chairman left a Direction to me to allow him. I know that it is your turn.

SHRI R. RAMASWAMY (Periyakulam): Honourable Chairman, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, I feel extremely glad to rise and participate in this discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence for the year 1991-92.

Sir, the Defence Budget this year has been hiked by 4 per cent. This increase is very scanty. Modernisation and acquisition of sophisticated weapons is essential to live up to increased security threats. This allocation, therefore, must be increased to a high order.

Sir, the V. P. Singh's Government has constituted the National Security Council to consider security matters. This House must know whether the Council is in existence or not. The Council presently has the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and the External Affairs Minister as its members. I urge upon the Government to include the three service chiefs as members of the Council. They only can tender professional and technical counselling to the Council.

Sir, in USA, the defence forces have a joint chief of staff. We must also nominate the senior most service chief as the Joint Chief of our defence forces. This would ensure better coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Sir, the time has also come that we must increase our defence production. I welcome the proposal of the Defence Minister to augment our defence production for the purpose of exporting to other nations. This would certainly earn our country valuable foreign exchange.

Our security threats have increased manifold. Conventional concentration of our forces on the Himalayan border no more offers us a satisfactory defence preparedness.

The gruesome assassination of a young Prime Minister is still looming gloom in our minds. The LTTE camps set up during the DMK rule, the US bases in Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean have considerably altered our defence scenario. The DMK which aided and abetted the LTTE in the commission of heinous crimes in our country, has been uprooted by our dynamic leader, Puratchi Thalaivi. Today, the cause of the Tamils, whether it is for the safety of the Tamils against the militants or for the Cauvery waters, is being strongly defended by Puratchi Thalaivi.

It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that we demand that Tamil Nadu should be accorded a special status under the constitution just like Jammu and Kashmir. The special status is imperative to get the State rid of militants and to ensure peace and normalcy which have been subverted over the past two years during the DMK rule.

It has almost become habitual with our civil administration to call the Army to stage flag marches for maintaining law and order.

[Sh. R. Ramaswamy]

This increased tendency of seeking the Army's assistance for maintaining civil administration has dangerous implications. The Army should not be fed with this impression that only the Army can run this country in case of chaos. We must, therefore, modernise our police forces and train them to cope with law and order problems.

It is in this context the Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded Rs. 120 crores for modernising its police forces in a phased manner. I request the Government to accord high priority for granting this amount.

It is ironical to note that the BSF which is being deployed along the western, northern and eastern borders of India has no role in guarding southern borders. The southern tip of India has a land link with Shri Lanka which is used by the LTTE militants for easy access to the mainland. Today in the absence of BSF and without the support of the Centre, Puratchi Thalaivi is protecting India by efficient administrative measures against the militants. I, therefore, demand that a special BSF task force must be stationed in Rameshwaram and other land links with Shri Lanka to guard our borders against militant intrusion.

I take this opportunity to demand that a special Naval patrol force must be commissioned to guard our coastal areas in southern India. I need not remind this Government of its utmost duty of completing on an urgent basis the Sedhu Samudran project. The lethargy and complacency in completing this project would cost our country very dearly. I caution this Government that it should not dilly dally over this matter. The Sedhu Samudram project must be completed at all costs at the earliest. Our defence planners must take note of this.

Our Puratchi Thalaivi had the vision and

for sight when she demanded that we should retrieve our strategic island Katchathivu ceded to Shri Lanka 16 years ago. The island is at a strategic location and it was ceded to Sri Lanka on the specific commitment that our fishing rights would not be interfered with. The Shri Lankan Government have betrayed us by seizing our boats and taking our fishermen as captives. The oppression and harassment meted out to our fishermen cannot be detailed. It is, therefore, essential that by a nullification treaty we retrieve the Katchathivu island from Shri Lanka. Just two days back, the Sri Lankan navy has fired at our fishermen near Katchathivu. Our leader Puratchi Thalaivi has urged the Centre to demand compensation from the Sri Lankan Government. I urge upon the Defence Minister to initiate immediate action in the matter.

The Indian intelligence organisations have mercifully failed to forewarn the LTTE plan of wiping out a young Prime Minister. The Government must wake up to the increased cooperation between LTTE and the Israeli Mossad. LTTE has also connection with ULFA and Punjab extremists. How are they able to operate freely in the country? I, therefore, demand an inter State Police Council on the lines of Interpol which would work in coordination with our defence forces, be set up to check free movement of militants all over India.

It is the duty of every nation to give birth to defenders of nation's integrity and unity. Therefore, all those born must be provided with compulsory military training. The compulsory military training to all individuals would instil in the minds of our young generation a sense of national pride; responsibility, discipline and health too.

It is the only way to national integration. All those students who are fit and who are willing to serve the country should be put in special military training schools for shaping

them into the best soldiers. If you awake national feelings at every young age, all narrow appeals would get suppressed. I urge upon the Government to enact a legislation for compulsory military training.

The enormous amounts are being spent on our defence forces. More or less our defence personnel are above board. However, certain unwanted elements are also there. They build bridges on paper and show them as having been washed away by floods. The exchequer is being cheated of crores and crores of rupees in this way. I, therefore, urge upon the Defence Minister to institute appropriate enquiries. I also request him to devise a system of quarterly auditing of defence projects and constructions so that before bridges are washed away by floods, they are shown physically to the auditing team.

16.00 hrs

The country's territorial integrity is in the hands of our Jawans. Biting cold, heavy rains, landslides, malaria, venomous insect bites and other adverse conditions have only boosted up the morale of our leawans. Their separation from their families and dear ones has been their incentive to stoutly defend our country's borders. Should they be left high and dry? What crime have they committed that their families should not be looked after well? What crime have they committed they should not be given their due? I strongly demand that without considering the financial implications, the Government must implement the one-rank-one-pension scheme. The Government must provide free rail facility to the family members of servicemen. Free or subsidised rationing of essential commodities must be provided to the family members of servicemen and ex-servicemen. Houses at fifty per cent Government cost must be constructed for the servicemen during their service. Priority should be given to the sons and daughters of ser-

vicemen and ex-servicemen in Government employment and in educational institutions.

I hope the Hon. Minister would kindly consider all these suggestions and appropriately respond while he replies.

I thank you very much for having provided me this opportunity.

SHRIAMAL DATTA(Diamond Harbour):
Sir, it is very difficult for an outsider like myself to participate in the Defence budget debate, when I find that all the predecessors, at least most of them, have been insiders. There was lot to speak on because they have seen the Defence Services from inside. They know lot of the ills from their own experience, whereas I have to find my material from published sources - newspapers, magazines, Government Reports - which are always outdated. What comes out in the papers and magazines is often the work of lobbies, of those who are wanting to sell particular weapon systems. It is very difficult to pick and choose from there. And the difficulty is naturally compounded, in fact, created, by the fact that the Defence Department wants to work in total secrecy. I really do not know why this secrecy is maintained. It has never been explained by anybody, except that perhaps in the long years past, the British colonial government had adopted this secrecy which, I am told, in Great Britain is still being maintained to some extent. But not even in Great Britain, and certainly not in other countries, it is being maintained to the extent that our Defence Ministry maintains even now. We do not know of many countries because we have the language difficulty, but I understand that in America, in USA, nothing is denied to the Congressmen and Senators. Nothing is Defence secret from these people who are people's representatives. But in this country, not only the people's representatives are not trusted with any secrets of Defence, which are hallowed treasures in the hands of only Ministers and

[Sh. Amal Datta]

bureaucrats, but even I found to my utter surprise that when I was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, even the CAG said that materials are not being provided to him. He is supposed to audit the Defence Department and the Defence Department was not providing him with the materials. In one case I myself had to intervene, calling the Defence Secretary and telling him what were his objections in handing over the materials to CAG. He raised certain conditions, like working in the Defence Department itself in a room to be provided with all kinds of security checks and all that, which were not acceptable to CAG's people. Ultimately, of course, I could prevail upon the Secretary to see reason and hand over the materials to the CAG's people. This is paranoia. I think to some extent this is being taken advantage of by interested people so that the secrets remain with them and the policies cannot be challenged. In fact, there are no policies. In fact, the Defence Department depends upon *ad hocism* as no other Department perhaps of the Government of India does. There is no policy at all.

It is a wonder that when we are speaking on Defence Budget which is an important one giving details of money as to how money is spent and how much is needed and the allocation of resources etc. - nobody speaks on these terms of how much is actually allocated and what exactly is needed. Of course, there is one excuse that we have no means of knowing because that is kept as a secret. What is needed to us, what is the preparedness, what is the arms level and what is the force level of other countries with which we have to contend - all these are kept as secret. In fact, we do not even know what are our national security objectives. Do the defence forces have only to defend the territorial borders or the sea coast or the territorial waters or also the economic zone which extends to two million square kilometres or

the pioneering zone in the Indian ocean also? Also, to what extent they have to defend the air space? What are our security objectives? If these are not defined it will be difficult. These extend not only to the concrete objects like land and water but it extends to the value system, to the way of life, to the preservation, development and expansion. What is the national security policy? The objectives are not known. The policy has not been formulated and yet a defence system has to be there. It goes on the basis of *ad hocism*, without any guidance. The victim, obviously, is the exchequer because more and more demands - in such circumstances - will be made on the exchequer. Because that there is no policy, everybody wants to have the latest weaponry which is available, or at least the latest weaponry which has been acquired or is about to be acquired by the main adversaries.

Sometimes we can also provoke them in going into the areas where they would not have otherwise gone. It was a great thing for India that in 1974 India exploded a device in the Rajasthan desert. It was long ago. We have practically forgotten about it. But others have not forgotten. Those others are carrying on with the research and development - clandestine or otherwise - to develop the nuclear device, at least of the same capability, if not better. Can not be people in the world outside India - who have no obligation to go on praising every policy of the Government of India or its Defence department - say that India had done something which provoked its adversary to go on this particular path. The weapons' acquisition policy is taken without telling the people of what is the position. What is the force level in particular sectors like Air Force, Army or Navy? What is the force level of our armed forces when compared to the adversaries that they have to meet?

That is being done because of the lack of a policy and it is a luxury. The British used

to say that without a policy they have bungled into conquering the world. That was in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century to the extent they have been able to conquer a major part of the world. But then perhaps, because of that very same lack of policy, in the twentieth century, they have shrunk into a third class power. Do we also follow them? Do we bungle our way into that kind of a position, shrinking ourselves from what we can achieve otherwise, if we have a coherent and consistent policy. What is the meaning of that? Why a policy? We do not have a security policy. We do not have a proper defence policy. We have not identified that objects to be defended. We cannot assign the task of the particular forces or those which are ancillary to the forces like the ordnance factories, PSUs, the R&D Wing - we cannot assign them the task. Why? Because the Defence Policy will decide what is going to be the tactical policy and tactical policy will decide what is the technology policy and on the basis of the technology policy you assign the task of R&D. We have never done that. The people working in the R&D also are guilty because they have never pointed it out that they have no particular policy guideline given by the Government ever. What did R&D do in such circumstances? The Army thinks of something, something that has already become old in the western countries and has come out in the magazines, some details are available. Now, they say, 'All right, we also want it' For what purpose? How will it help us? Not known. But they start doing it and the sad results are seen in the development of MBT. Sir, you very well know, I think you mentioned that - the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). What has happened to MBT development? In 1972 it was decided, in 1974 work was started by R&D for a small sum of Rs. 15 lakhs or something. Now it has become 17 times that amount. Not now, in 1988 itself it had become 17 times that amount. The P.A.C. gave a report on that in 1989. In this report all this has been mentioned. And MBT

is still far from development. In fact, by the time it is developed, perhaps we will no longer need tanks because automatic missiles system will take care of tanks. Your tanks will be of no use. The self-guided bombs will be there. In fact, maybe by their delay the R&D will do its service to India because the amounts which would have been needed to productionise these tanks will be saved. (Interruptions). Therefore, the policy is needed also today because the character of war which we are facing has changed. We are facing a war in Punjab, we are facing a war in Kashmir. This as our former Prime Minister, Mr. V.P. Singh was found of saying here as well as in our Consultative Committees that our adversary has decided upon a low cost war. This low cost war which they have launched against us from their borders, they are sitting there, they employ our people to wage this war against us, against our State, against the people of India. Now, who will take care of that policy? What is going to be the policy today? The character of war has changed. The difference between internal security and external security also has become very blurred and the technical changes which have taken place have also blurred the distinction between the Services. There are many attacks and many forms of defence which will be carried out either by the Navy or by the Air Force. You also, Sir, said, if I may quote you or if I may refer to your speech, that the aircraft carriers have become redundant in today's war and not only recently we have - 'only recently' means about 3-4 years ago, we had acquired an aircraft carrier and we had spent an enormous amount in refurbishing that, a very old aircraft we purchased from Britain which they are going to scrap. Now, moneys have been spent in this fashion because of a lack of policy. Today we are going on manufacturing these T-72 tanks which we have started about 3-4 years ago to manufacture. Now the question is whether this will be at all useful. What kind of warfare is visualised in which the tanks would be

[Sh. Amal Datta]

useful? And I am told that even the small arms, the rifles, the AK-47s and all that which all that which all other armies and even the militants are is today, but our Army does not have. Therefore, the National Security Council which was formed in 1990, has become defunct in a month or so after its formation because that Government failed and everybody resigned. It has not yet been reconstituted. I think, it is one of the primary and immediate functions which this Government should carry out. It should reconstitute the National Security Council immediately. There is a 35 member Advisory Board without which no policy decision can be taken. If the information is made available to them, then they can streamline the Indian defence in both thinking and application. The cost also can be streamlined; it may be more effective defence at lesser cost.

Now, our Hon. Friend Shri Sawant had said that the vestiges of the British colonial attitude remains with our Army. I think, the Army takes pride in being somewhat different, particularly the officers in the Army; I am not talking about Jawans. The officers of the Army take pride in their better standard of living than other middle-class citizens of the country. The British people had followed this exclusiveness for political reasons; they had followed it for a very good reason. They are different, they will be held in awe, their dignity will be better maintained and in fact they will not have to go and confront the people. But in our case, if our officers retain that attitude, it creates a lot of difficulties for us; one of the difficulties is that not only the people do not regard them as one among them, but the other thing is there is no integration even in the Services. The exclusiveness pervades all the divisions of the Services and it creates inter-Service rivalry as to who will acquire weapons and how much. So, the adhocism and inter-Service rivalry have led us to this position that every

service wants to have the best of weapons which is possible for them to have. Most of these weapons have to be imported. Sometimes, people say that all these Generals and Admirals are like children. Whatever little electronic toys that are coming to the market, the children rush up to them. I think the Generals and Admirals are rushing after these kind of things as if they are toys to be acquired. India cannot afford that luxury and in fact, sometimes it is done in a peculiar situation. We have acquired aircrafts. From 1982 onwards, we have acquired at least 7 squadrons of JAGUAR and 2 squadrons of MIRAGE apart from MiG aircraft. I do not know exactly how many of them have been manufactured here. But we have got a total of 35 squadrons of aircrafts. But all this information comes out in bits and pieces in various papers and magazines. They are not authorised information, but anyway it says that only 70 per cent of our requirement for pilots is in position, the other 30 per cent are not there. It is because we do not have enough facilities even to train the pilots. The advanced jet training facility, which is to be given to the pilots who will run these fighters and bombers, is lacking. There may be other reasons also. This has been the position not from now, but from quite a long time. We always have confidence in our capacity in spite of repeated failures. We say that we would manufacture indigenously. Since 1984, that talk has been going on and yet no decision has been taken. So, it is not the question of our technical capability, but it is the question of our capability to take a decision. That also is not evident. As a result, what are we going to do? The planes will be sitting in the hangers or in shelters. They are not able to fly them, because pilots are not there. This is the kind of thing which happens. Exclusiveness leads also to lack of coordination between civil planning Defence planning. Of course, there is no Defence planning, that is my first contention. But whatever is there, whatever arms we know, we have to go on manufacturing it and we

have been doing it for a long time. Even there, we have not been able to coordinate between the civil sector and the Defence sector. This is most unfortunate. We have also no coordination as to when we are going to give particular items for manufacturing to Defence public sector undertakings and Defence ordinance factories, if those items are to be done in the Government sector and not outside the Government sector. How much of component of a particular weapon the PSU should manufacture? It does not mean that every part of it has to be manufactured by the PSU. It has to buy some of the parts from outside. About how much, there is no policy. This is why, we require a policy. We require a tactical policy; we require a Technology policy; we require an R&D policy. But we have nothing.

We require a systematic thinking in Defence and systematic thinking can be done through such an organisation as the National Security Council which will have people from different disciplines assembled together at one place who are committed to thinking on Defence matters and streamline and improving Defence effectiveness. I hope the Minister has taken note of the fact that this particular organisation has been still born.

I have already spoken about the need of Defence forces being optimal. We should not go in for more than what we need. That is the greatest sin we can commit because then that will mean provoking the other side. I have already given the example of 1974 atomic device explosion. The other example that comes to my mind is the acquisition of the submarines. Somebody took it to his head. In fact, it was a long-drawn process that we should acquire such submarines which can go out and remain under water for much longer period than the ones we had earlier. I am referring to ordinary submarines as well as nuclear submarines. We have bought the German submarines and at the

same time, we have gone in for the Soviet submarines. In a very short space of time, we have acquired 11 submarines. Pakistan is very weak in Navy. Pakistan never counts for anything in the Navy. They cannot even probably defend the port of Karachi. We are increasing our Naval force saying that it must be 'blue water' this thing and that thing. Whom are we going to take on with this Navy? Pakistan is not going to give us a naval battle with the kind of force it has. But we may yet provoke them into acquiring it. That is what we are trying to do without understanding it. That is what we are trying to do without understanding it. I am not attributing any *malafides* to any body. But our lack of thinking, lack of understanding and lack of appreciation of our action will be reacted by others. So, nuclear submarine is another example. We took on lease Soviet nuclear power submarine for three years. It has wetted the appetite of our Navy. We wanted another lease. We are negotiating for that, I am told. Pakistan has approached China to get nuclear war submarines. What they will do with one submarine, I do not know. Any-way, they also react to our acquiring it. We have been reacting to their acquisition but in a very big way.

What we have done in the Air Force level is such that it is remarkable. We have got double the number of combat planes which Pakistan has. India has 830 combat aircraft as opposed to 450 of Pakistan. This is an information which you will rarely come across even in newspapers. Those who are lobbying are lobbying in India to make the Indian public conscious that they must buy some more aircraft. This lobbying has gone on. When *Mirage* was purchased in 1982-83, there were lot of articles coming out in newspapers about why India must purchase *Mirage*. Otherwise, India's defence will be totally in shambles. I am told that in 1978 also, there was lot of lobbying before the purchase of *Jaguar* was decided on (*Interruptions*).

[Sh. Amal Datta]

But there are basic deficiencies which remain in the Indian Airforce which should be rectified.

First, I mentioned about the shortage of Pilots. 30 per cent more pilots are needed.

Then the non-availability of advance jet trainer which is linked up with this.

Then the electronic counter-measure capability. It is one of the prime weaknesses so far as electronic war today is concerned or we will focus our radars and the beam of the radar will be used for sending a missile or a bomb. This is an area where we have lost and although people shower praises on the DRDO establishment, I am unable to do it. I have had the misfortune to go through some of the activities of the DRDO when I was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and it is unfortunate that they did not meet with our approval. The Committee itself had to deprecate the way of their functioning particularly in the development of MBT and some others also.

We are short of guided missiles, rockets and spares for the MIGs. Once we have turned our face towards Soviet Union. We have acquired about 75 per cent of our armaments stock today from Soviet Union. We have to depend on them for spares and all that and yet we have closed the line for manufacturing MIGs which were functioning in 1989 in Nasik. We could have definitely developed that aircraft if we had acquired Avionics from somewhere else and that upgraded plane is what China is now supplying to Pakistan. Or rather, there is a negotiation going on. What we are trying to do is we are going to investigate. Our Air Force has now set its sights on acquiring hawks or alpha jets for us, hawks from Britain and alpha jets from France or Germany and the cost of acquisition of 100 such aircraft will be Rs. 3,000

crores. That may be last year's estimate. By the time we take a decision, it will be Rs. 4,000 crores. But that helps lot of people because the cut-backs are more. I am told that there is an offer of plants from Northrop who have dismantled the line top manufacture AJT because there is no price to be paid and it has been rejected. There is no commission if no price is to be paid.

We have been developing this LCA. By the way, I mention now that the Aeronautical Development Agency which is developing the LCA is outside the Defence Ministry. It is not even a Defence establishment. I am told that it is a registered society. The money that is spent through this ADA is not shown in the Defence Budget. Similarly, there is another agency for the development of helicopter. That money is also not shown in the Defence Budget. In fact, there are a series of Defence related expenses which are not brought into the Defence Budget. The figures which are given in the Budget are rather wrong. Today, we are discussing the grants under the control of the Defence Ministry. There are five or six grants and the addition of them comes up to a much larger figure than what we are told as the Defence Budget. So, actually an enormous amount of money has already been spent for the development of LCA. But what has happened is that we have not been able to even precisely define what is going to be the LCA. We have to take the help for project definition. We have to go to the foreign experts like the Dassault - think it is a German firm - to get help to complete the project definition. Then we have got into the detailed design. We had earlier thought that there would be an Indian-developed engine developed by the GTRE the Gas Turbine Research Establishment. We thought that that engine will do. But now it is found that that engine will not do. What the ADA has decided is to buy an engine from the GE, the General Electric Company of the USA, the F-404 engine. Therefore, they say that the proto-type will be flown in 1995, will be flown

with this F-404 engine. So, sometime in 2000 A.D. we may be able to develop the GTX engine when it will take over from the F-404. Wonderful! A speculative research'.

Sir, then, we have gone for composites because this is going to be the LCA. It is of light weight. It cannot use metals. It uses composites. So, we have gone for that to Northrop. For the system, you have gone to Lear Seigler and Bendix. Whatever we are testing-

Of course, the plane is not going to fly just now - we are going to test them in the U.S. Air Force's Wright Patterson Air Force base. Wonderful. But this is Indian, you say. Everything comes from outside, tested outside, the knowledge, the technology everything is borrowed or bought from outside and then we say it is Indian. Similarly, we have a lot of deficiencies to be filled up. I think the new Minister will, perhaps with his dynamism, be able to do it in a short enough time so that our defence preparedness does not have to suffer. But then we should remember the preparedness must now be turned towards defence of another kind, defence of the Punjab, Kashmir, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. In all these areas, there is a different kind of war and perhaps the Defence Minister will now turn the eyes of the Defence Ministry and the Services towards that kind of a war so that we can get some peace in this area and that is what security demands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Amal Datta, you have already taken, 35 minutes.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I have been waiting for three hours (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total time allotted to your party is only 30 minutes.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: That is all right. Should I skip Navy? I cannot skip the Navy

because our Minister has made certain remarks about the Navy. He has got a particular liking for the Navy. I cannot just skip it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolapur): He is going from one place to another with a rope.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Yes. In fact some people say that there was a stunt-man for Shri Sharad Pawar. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Stunt-man like the boys who fight in the Bombay cinema. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The Navy has been able to get more money through long years of nagging the Government for more money. They have been able to secure more money over the last decade. If we take the average of all the Budgets, in the previous decade, the total amount of the Budget was 8.9 per cent. And this has gone up to 12 per cent in the eighties as compared to 8.9 per cent in the seventies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this the percentage of the total Defence Budget?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is of the total Defence Budget. Defence Budget in this context means, Budget of the three services and nothing else. Last year, in 1989-90, the Navy has got 13.4 per cent. Then there may have been a slight fall in the percentage. The amount has not increased, has not jumped since 1989-90. Now the idea of the Navy is to acquire more of bigger vessels. This is what the Minister has endorsed or said. And sixty per cent of the money will be spent for larger vessels. The Navy wants to reach a 60-40 ratio. But that may not be in money terms. That may be in terms of vessels. In which case, the amount spent on larger vessels is much more than on the smaller vessels. What is the objective? Has the Navy

[Sh. Amal Datta]

got the objective of not only to take on their adversaries like Pakistan but also to take on any other adversaries who may come into the region?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dum Dum): For instance, from Diego Garcia.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Yes. The question is, have we got the capability to take on? But even if we do not have the capability, we can still have our presence registered all over the place. But how is that presence to be registered? If we go on buying large vessels then what happens is, we get a smaller number of vessels. Either we have a big presence in a smaller number of places that we have or we may have small presence but larger number of vessels. Which is better? Has anybody thought it about? Even if there is a patrol vessel, whatever sea-worthy vessels are possible, the smaller vessels, if those 200 vessels are there to go around patrolling the sea, is it not better to keep away those people who also want to encroach upon our economic zone of two million square kilometres? I do not know how they are going to do it. But, anyway, we can have larger presence over there by a greater number of smaller vessels than what we will have by fairly larger vessels. This point should be considered and re-considered and you may call me as a consultant. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): They have no lobbies.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Some lobby will come to me.

There is no policy of going on manufacturing more and more vessels. When one vessel is completed, then people start thinking as to what to do next. This is what I found when I visited the Mazagon Dock last in 1989. People were really worried as to what

would happen, when that particular submarine for which everything was created, comes to an end. Fortunately, for want of parts or something else, it is still going on. So, they have not been declared redundant yet.

R%D, as I said, comes out of a tactical policy, which dictates the technology policy, which in turn is the R&D policy.

We do not have any R&D going on. Whatever assistance it has acquired, whatever people it has got, it is going on doing something or the other. Whatever the services tell them to do, they go on doing that. They quote a very low figure, to start with.

They will quote a low figure and a short time. You will be surprised, when they say that they will do it in two years. They will not be going it even in 12 years. Unless they say two years, nobody will entrust them the job. The usual thing I have seen was that their monatry estimates goes up by 15 times and time estimates goes up by about 7-8 times. That is also the pattern followed by the Atomic Energy. But anyway let us not digress too much.

The DRDO had got 47 laboratories and we have got, 34,000 scientists and technologists.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 34,000

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Something like that, which is enormous. 25 per cent of the R&D budget, out of public funds in India, is consumed by the DRDO. What is the result? I have often asked this question. Once I got an answer may be two or three years ago or sometimes it was mentioned in a report also that they have been able to contribute, say Rs.2,500 worth of goods, which have been produced, following the DRDO's technology. But what is value addition in that Rs. 2,500? It consists of steel and other material purchased from the market. When it has

been manufactured or fashioned into a particular thing and the value of the material purchased had been added and that is their contribution. So, they do not even know, how to estimate their own contribution. But anyway this was where we landed in. In every Budget debate earlier, with my PUC experience, I used to advocate that R&D budget must be increased. That was what I used to see in the papers, magazines and by other sources of information. But when I went through this experience, I instructed that, at moment, DRDO does not merit any increase in its budget, and that it had to put its house in order and there is large long task. I have written long letters to the Ministers on the DRDO's policy, particularly their personal policy. May be the Minister will not call for the old files; I think MPs papers and letters are kept in separate files, and if you can call the file of Amal Datta, you will find my long letters or I will xerox and send them to you. Now, the DRDO's policy was the root of this, and that had to be changed. I do not want to go into the further details because then I will be saying the names, which is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are also running out of time.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I will take only one or two minutes. One of the main functions which it could discharge even without a policy, without anything is to get the knowledge of technologies under evolution; technologies which are being developed anywhere in the world and keep the services abreast of that knowledge. That is the prime function that it could discharge without anything else. No policy is required for that. It is not discharging that function. What it has been doing is that when it was ordered to get something or when it was asked whether it could do something, it looks around to see whether something is available and it, gets that material, brings it to India and modifies and serves it up as something which they themselves had produced. We have seen

that in many cases.

Even Agni missile is dependent on a technology of propulsion, which had been brought from USA. It was a 60s rocket design of the USA, which had been scrapped up and the nose-cone the brain and the main engine have been developed by the German Aerospace Research Establishment. German Aerospace Research Establishment had done it and the DRDO has been somehow able to suppress it from us. It depended on a lot of imported components. I hope the Minister will clarify this. It is not only Americans but also Germans and Japanese. All are there. There are big cartels. They control the export of these components.

So without telling them what we are taking from them, we have taken. We have taken in the name of 47 Defence laboratories, one bit from each. We have taken them in one place and assembled them and done this missile. Now they have got wise and they have prohibited or put an embargo on the export of these items to India and we have no way of firing another missile. I have been told like that; I don't know. The Minister may kindly clarify that.

The other thing is about ex-servicemen. We cannot finish a Defence debate without that. What has been happening is that ex-servicemen's problems have assumed a tremendous proportion. The more days go by, the problems will be more and more acute. As you know, upto 1973 or 1975 the Army had a strength of half a million. Now in two stages it has reached 1.1 million. The people who have gone out of the Army - the ex-servicemen - their number upto now is much less than what it will be in future. Even that smaller number of ex-servicemen cannot be tackled by the Government. If the Government does not gear up its facilities and opportunities and money which it should spend on the ex-servicemen, it has no way of meeting the demand which will arise from

[Sh. Amal Datta]

1992 or 1993 onwards because their number will go up and it will become double of what it is today.

I know, I have been also involved in some of these organizations. These ex-servicemen mostly are employed as private security personnel. Now-a-days companies also hire security. These hired security guards are usually ex-servicemen. That kind of job they have to accept. One of the things is very strange that the Government knowing that these people will be out on the streets at the age of 35 or 40, do not give them any type of training. So, the only thing they are capable of doing is the service of security guard. I think it is unpardonable on the part of the Government to throw out the people at that age without giving them a training which will suit some walks of civilian life.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Where are the jobs? They are given training; but there are no jobs at all.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: That is the wrong kind of training given to them.

The housing, the pension all these aspects will have to be looked into. Now the pension matter has come to the fore for various reasons. There is already a policy which has been enunciated by the National Front Government and, I endorse that policy. That policy should be put into effect immediately. Then a committee should be set up to go into all these aspects. All these aspects as to what welfare should be afforded to the ex-servicemen including also the servicemen as we have heard the stories of servicemen coming to the peace station and not having any place to live. That is no way of living. They should be able to live with the family when they come to peace station. That opportunity must be afford to them

station. That opportunity must be afford to them. All these should go into a committee.

I endorse what Major Sudhir Sawant has said about having a younger army. He gave his personal example as to why he prefers a younger army. In fact everywhere in the world that is there. How that is to be achieved is also something which should be within the terms of reference of such a committee. In fact it should go into the whole aspect of whether we should continue with the policy which we perhaps might have adopted about 30 or 40 years ago, whether it requires some changes because of the changes occurred everywhere in the world and in India's conditions where people have to go to fight in Siachen and in Rajasthan deserts and all that.

I conclude by saying that the Government has a lot to do for the services and a lot of thinking to do. All the difficulties, that we are facing today, have taken place because the Government has not thought out as to what is going to be the national security policy, defence policy, and the whole lot of it. Therefore, you please reconstitute the National Security Council as soon as possible. With that, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN(Jhuri, Jhunu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating relating to the Ministry of Defence. In every age and time every country has tried to keep the best force for the defence of the borders because much depends on capability of the armed forces. I believe that under the leadership of the Prime Minister who has vast experience and foresight and the Defence Minister and other Ministers and the top Defence officers. Our defence preparedness would be excellent.

First of all, I would like to say a few things about the points raised by Shri Datta Sahib

and other hon. Members. I do not think that it is a good convention to speak about the top Defence officers in the House and particularly about a person of the General's rank. One does not become a General overnight. One has to undergo many tests and trials and work very hard to reach that post. Only a fortunate person occupies that position and therefore he should command our respect. We are proud of all our Generals in the past. Under their supervision we have had one of the best Armed Forces in the world. No amount of pride in our forces and our officers would suffice.

We use different types of tanks like T-72, T-55 and Paton tanks in our Armed corps. I would like to appeal to the Government to pay attention to the change in technology because most of our equipments are Russian. Would the spare parts of Russian equipment be easily available? Besides the best tank- Arjun tank-that we are going to manufacture, would be one of the best tanks in the world also. But the problem is that lot of time is being taken in the production of its engine. I think that in America when a new tank was developed it took them about 10-12 years. In my opinion, if we take so much time in developing the engine of Arjun tank, a day will come when the tank would no doubt be ready but it would lag behind in warfare when it would be sent to the battle front because by that time other tanks having more modern techniques of warfare would be developed. Therefore, instead of entirely depending upon the Arjun tank we should emphasize on developing a machine which is able to cope up with the latest warfare techniques and defence requirements. We may manufacture other tanks like T-55, T72 etc but at the same time we should give priority to the manufacture of Vijanata Tank. We can manufacture it according to our requirements. I would like to appeal that we should improve our tank technology and try to introduce high powered infra-red light system in it so that we could engage the enemy in war during the

night also. There should be arrangement of barrel in which spare petrol or Diesel could be carried. That external barrel should be so manufactured that it is protected from small fire arms and could be modified according to the requirements. The protective wear that the tank crew is supposed to wear should also be fire-proof. Even if the tank is hit the crew should be safe.

I would suggest that a dog mask should used for the tank crew. There are many things that the armed corps or an armed Division requires. Earlier we used to have *Echelons*. Whenever a tank column moved this also moved behind it in B' Vehicles. I would like to submit that instead of the supporting services moving in the vehicles behind they should move in the track vehicles and carry besides ammunition other material for repairs etc. Besides, they should carry supporting arms like mines trawlers etc.. Every Squadron should have some mines trawlers so that in case of sudden attack or speedy attack these could be used immediately and the forces do not have to wait.

I would like to mention here that when a Jawans to capture an enemy post he has the target before him but huge he has to cross a mines field of the enemy. He goes with all courage and strength at his command without even caring for his life and come out victorious. What inspires him in the field. In spite of knowing that there is 20-30 percent casualty in such cases the Jawan moves ahead with confidence and destroys the enemy posts. His motherland calls him to sacrifice his life for a cause. We have a saying in Rajasthan-

"Janani Jane to soor
jan ke data ke soor,
Nahi to rijo baanji
vyarth gavanye
noor."

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

God gives life to a person for the service of the motherland and he should think that his every act is being watched by the Almighty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sad that some Army Officers have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on the grounds of religion. In Armed Forces there is secularism. You may have observed that generally there is a temple in every unit of the Armed Forces and persons of every religion go there to offer prayers. There is no discrimination. They feel proud in going there and the morale of every Jawan is high. We also believe in Rama and respect him.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI(Pune): Sir, which way is he trying to fire?

SHRI AYUB KHAN: I am not going astray. I am speaking about defence forces. You should appreciate. I am appreciating Rama.

When I was fighting elections, the candidate of Bharatiya Janta Party fighting against me said that you cast voter in my name I would attack Pakistan. I told the electorates that this person would launch an attack on Pakistan after he will get votes but I have fought on the war front. We made a graveyard of the Pakistani tanks when it tried to invade India. We proved it to the world that we were a better lot. This is what our Motherland has taught us. (Interruptions)

My party just does not indulge in rhetoric but also gives concrete shape to the plans. Other parties raise issues for drawing attention of people while my party is guided by the heritage of the country. My party has made its stand crystal clear then what else do the other parties expect from us?

Sir, secularism is an important plank in

the armed forces. I today suggest that necessary changes be brought about in our tank technology, improved guns should be fitted on tanks and these should have good firing equipments and improved infrarays equipment to make it possible to engage the enemy at night time because in future wars won't be fought during day time. These would be fought generally in the night. We should make such equipments available to the army which make night visibility clear.

17.00 hrs.

Lastly I like would to raise the issue concerning ex-servicemen. Every year 55,000 soldiers and JCO rank officers and between 900 to 1000 officers retire from active service. I feel sorry at the plight of soldiers. He joins service at the age 17 and after retirement at 37 years of age he comes on the road. Now the time has come to evolve a policy to make the alternative jobs available to the retiring soldiers while in active service so that on retirement they have not to work as peons, gatekeepers and watchmen. Every soldier dedicates better part of his life in the service of the nation. But on retirement soldiers face all sorts of difficulties. He should be provided parallel service even before retirement. Alternative jobs can be arranged in Police Service. An arrangement should be made to provide him job as per his requirement.

I hail from Jhunjhunu. Representation of Jhunjhunu in the armed forces is the highest. Therefore, I submit that a recruitment melas should be organised to recruit persons suitable to the army. You will get as tall as six feet and well educated persons by organising the 'Mela' besides, holding 'Melas' a Sainik school also needs to be set up in the district to make the best education available to the wards of army personal. There is a large scale corruption in our recruitment system. It is our duty to check it.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA *in the Chair*]

Madam Chairman, I hope that the Hon. Minister will pay due attention to what I am stating here in the august House.

I have learnt that district recruitment centres are being shifted near to military stations. In every district there is a recruitment centre for armed forces. There is one in JhunJhunu also. It is learnt that Jhunjunun recruitment centre is being shifted near same military station. If it is so then it will be a great injustice to Jhunjhunu district. We should find out some other way, such as organising recruitment Mela etc. to check the corruption on recruitment.

DR.G.L. KANAUIA: Madam Chairman, Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Quorum Bell be rung.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now there is Quorum.

Mr. Ayub Khan, you may please continue.

[Translation]

MR AYUB KHAN: Madam Chairman, Sir, I was speaking about recruitment of offices. Undoubtedly there is lot of corruption in recruitment in these centres. But instead of shifting these offices some other measures should be taken to check the corruption. I am particularly talking about Jhunjhunu.

There is a need for India to learn a lesson from the recent Iraq-America war and to equip our armed forces with the latest

technologies used in that war. Indian Air Force must be penetrative enough to effectively track down and shoot down any of the enemy's aeroplane daring to venture into our airspace. Training needs to be given to armed forces. The Government must look into the aspect to modernising Army in general and infantry in particular.

Just a while ago the Ex. PAC Chairman Shri Amal Datta was speaking and he has now left the House. He was referring to maintenance of secrecy by the armed forces and if the information leaks out then security will be in jeopardy. His submissions were taken in higher view by other Hon. Members. He dwelt on the arms being used for protecting the borders of the country. He made a taunt about the effectiveness of those arms. We should not pass remarks about the arms purchased from foreign countries. If we do not trust the effectiveness of these arms enemy will be happy to know that. In the 1965 war with Pakistan Indian Army had German Tanks, of World war II while the Pakistan had petons tanks. Indian Army was told that the tanks in possession of Pakistans army Sere received in charity by that country and they will not be proved effective and exactly same thing happened. Whatever arms we have whether it is Bofors gun or any other arm, we should not discuss them in parliament. As all this will benefit the enemy and demoralise our defence. In the maintenance of secrecy lies the penetrativeness of air armed forces.

DRDO and ordinance factories performance is laudable. We have succeeded in evolving this technology after great efforts. Hopefully sometime in future India will definitely join the band wagon of select countries. Besides, development of 'Prithvi' and 'Akash' missiles, development of nuclear technology by all means is necessary to show on the equal footing in this nuclear race. Acquisition of nuclear technologies by our neighbours China and Pakistan causes

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

considerable adverse affect on the morale of our armed forces and people at large. Acquisition of atomic energy potential by other nations jeopardises our country's freedom and independence, whose responsibility rests on all of us. There is a need to ponder over all this. There is a need to make arrangements and induct new technologies so that our enemys donot even dare to turn an evil eye towards India.

Sir, memories of both 1965 and 1971 wars are fresh in my mind. Not a single village in my constituency goes unrepresented in armed forces. In 1971 war all we three brothers fought for the country. This has been sacred duty of my family for generations. My family takes pride in serving the country. My family serves the country not for winning the laurels or for anything else. In the name of God and as a religious duty my family serves the country and takes pride in it. I request that a Sainik School should be opened in my constituency, from where many a persons come to serve the armed forces. Recruitment Melas should also be organised. These things will give a good impression to the people of that area that their area is being properly looked after.

There is a need to review the present structure of armed forces of India. For instance, an Inspector has the power to arrest SP and DIG as per the British law, in force in preindependence days. So, some such change needs to be brought about in armed forces, where the juniors should also have access to senior officers to make their points clear about the effectiveness and quality of weapons.

I request the Government to make a provision 5 years, compulsory military training to all the persons of 18 years of age , before they decide to join any other service in the country. If military training is made

compulsory then a large Army can be raised at short notice in case of urgency. Even ladies such as the Madam Chairman , may be recruited in the armed forced in India and the country will be quite safe in their able hands.

Madam, I would like to give some suggestions. The Government have so far, not provided even the basic facilities to the armed forces. Very old oil cooker is provided to the soldiers in small units, company squadrons etc. for cooking meals. Why a van fully equipped with proper cooking equipment as gas stove, proper utensils etc. is not provided to them so that proper and fresh food is made readily available to them when they are in movement. I am proud of those soldiers who fight at the time of war and sacrifice everything. I hope you would pay attention to these matters.

I would request you to pay attention to what I have said in regard to JhunJunu constituency. It would be very unfortunate if the Government do not provide one rank one pension to the Ex-Servicemen as assured earlier. The Government should make this provision in the Budget of the current year at every cost so that nobody can misguide the disciplined force in any way. The day this matter was raised in the Parliament some of the political leaders visited the place where dharna was staged but they spoke only to serve their party interests. My submission is that all the political leaders should realise that politics should not be brought into the matters regarding Ex-servicemen. The Government should approve one rank one pension scheme for the sake of their honour. If the government is facing financial crisis they may delay the payment by 2-3 years but announcement to this effect should be made immediately. Pension money should be deposited in their account so that they do not face financial problems but announcement to this effect must be made immediately.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): It would be possible only if the present Government remains in power for three years.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister of Defence to arrange for the issue of free railway passes to highly decorated soldiers for life on the lines these are issued to the freedom fighters so that they also get the honour they deserve. It would be very unfortunate that those who have won such meritorious awards as Paramvir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Veer Chakra etc. feel neglected. We must honour them and provide free railway passes to them. It is not a matter of providing financial assistance to them. It is to show respect and honour to them and encourage them. We apply laser beams for the purpose of searching the enemy. If we have sophisticated technology to pass electric current in the beam we can cause heavy casualties to the enemy. We must advance our technology to this extent.

This is what I would like the Government to do and I am confident that the borders of our country would be protected under the worthy guidance of our Defence Minister and his team. Air, naval and land borders would be secured under the leadership of our worthy chiefs.

In the end, I would like to submit that the Government should not misuse the Services of army again and again for civil administration. Army has its own character, culture and dignity. If their services are misused they would lose their dignity. It is essential to maintain their dignity for the sake of the security of the country.

I am very thankful to Madam Chairman. I am confident that attention would be paid to the submission that I have made.

English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL
GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S.
KRISHAN KUMAR): Madam Chairman, as

[part of the tradition of this Ministry during the debate on the Defence Budget, I take your leave to intervene halfway through the debate party to answer some of the questions raised by the Hon. Members and partly to give an overview of the views of this Ministry in relation to the security situation and the defence planning and programmes.

My senior colleague, the Hon. Defence Minister, will be replying comprehensively to the debate tomorrow evening; he will be dwelling on all matters of higher policy, the more sensitive areas of threat, perception to our country and also the more important Defence Projects and programmes.

We, in the House, belong to different political persuasions; we have differences of opinion in the approaches in the defence matters by the Government or particular Defence Projects and programmes. But there has always been and there is today also a rare unanimity among all Members in our affection and respect for the fighting men of the defence forces, whether they be in Siachen glacier, whether they be in our desert frontier, whether they are on the High Seas or fighting in the air.

My senior colleague, the Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, during the last two months, after taking charge, visited the remotest fronts of our country where our jawans are in a state of readiness including Siachen and participated in Naval exercises. He has also taken pains to visit our workers in our Defence Production units and Scientists in the Research and Development Units who are giving able support to our Defence efforts.

Many of the Hon. Members like Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav and others very rightly pointed out the cataclysmic changes which are happening in the world which are altering the global situation in relation to Defence.

Madam, we are aware of the de-escalation of tensions in the world, the receding of the possibility of a nuclear war largely due to the epoch-making initiative taken by leaders

[Sh. S. Krishan Kumar]

like Gorbachov. But then, as far as India is concerned, we have to live with the geo-political regional situation and our threat perceptions in our immediate environment which are of an extremely serious nature. We are aware of these threat perceptions. We are aware of Pakistan's nuclear capability and programme and we are aware of the rate at which the Pakistan is arming itself, the way they are acquiring more sophisticated arms from the United States, China and even the reported acquisition of Iraqi tank from Saudi Arabia. We are all only too much aware of their involvement in de-stabilisation of our country in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. We are also aware of the military developments in China.

I do not want to go into the details but I would like to assure the Hon. Members that a very detailed and systematic assessment of the strategic and technological environment faced by this country has already been prepared by the Defence Planning Staff and concerned Ministries including the Ministry of External Affairs. It is in a process of detailed discussion. After finalisation of this document, it will form the basis for determining our principal security objectives and planning strategies in our Defence during the Eighth Plan.

I would like to correct Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav who said that our administrative report was defective. I would like to humbly point out to him that this administrative report which has been circulated refers to the financial year, which ended on the 31st March, 1991. At that time the then Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar happened to be the Defence Minister. So only that way we can record in the administrative report for accuracy.

I as the Minister of State in this Ministry had recently an opportunity to visit the Soviet Union and chair a meeting on Indo-Soviet Defence Cooperation. That was two or three days before the happenings there, the coup. We had very useful discussions and I am

happy to say that out of the 13 or 14 major issues which had to be sorted out with the Soviets, in relation to the supply of spares and equipment and also continuing new programmes, more than ten issues were satisfactorily resolved and protocols entered into. The discussions were very cordial and productive.

We would like to assure you, Madam Chairman, and through you the House, that Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation has been built on the strongest foundations by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and our national leaders for the last 40 to 45 years, even from pre-independence. This cooperation will be pursued.

I would not like to say dependence on the Soviet Union as far as our armaments, equipment or technology is concerned, but I would like to say that this cooperation is based on mutual respect. This is not a friendship between two people who Governments. This is a friendship between two represent one billion people or one-fifth of the entire humanity. We are very sure and that is the signal we are getting from the Soviet Union also that the Indo-Soviet friendship across the entire gamut or spectrum of cooperation we have painstakingly built over the years will continue and the Indo-Soviet defence cooperation will be an integral part of it. India shall do everything in its part and the Defence Ministry shall take such approaches as to strengthen this cooperation and we hope that we will get complete reciprocity from the Soviet Union. This is not to say that we will not keep our windows open to the world. This is not to say that we will in any way compromise our defence preparedness in relation to the necessity of getting stores, getting equipment, modernising our armed forces. At no stage will our faience preparedness be compromised.

Madam Chairperson, we are all aware of the constraints of the Defence Budget. It is a part of the constraints of the overall Budget of the nation. This year the Defence Budget has been enhanced by about 3.8 per cent

over the revised Budget Estimates of 1990-91. This is less than the amount suggested by the Committee on Defence Expenditure which was formed to curtail defence expenditure or rationalise it. This is of course much less than the demands projected by the services and the agencies under this Ministry. You are also aware - this is no secret and this information is available in authentic defence journal in the world - that Pakistan, according to any index of defence spending or preparedness, is spending more than double the share of defence expenditure in terms of the total governmental expenditure of the country, the total per capita income of the country, and so on when compared to India. But we have our limitations, which has been explained by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. So, we have to make do with Rs. 16,350 crores, a reduced allocation of free foreign exchange and also a reduced allocation of non rupee convertible amount. There is no other alternative. But I would like to say that the Defence Ministry as well as the different branches of the Defence forces are seriously engaged in a process of streamlining their systems; cutting down any area of waste; increasing efficiency; trying to get more value for each rupee. I have got a whole list of the initiatives of the different branches of the Defence Ministry here. As some parts of it, where we are cutting our expenditure are of a secret nature. I do not want to dwell on them. But I would like to say that the defence forces are cooperating; they are understanding the seriousness of the financial crisis in this country and they are trying to see that the rupee goes the farthest as far as defence preparedness of the country is concerned.

We have been identifying savings as a result of the economy drive. We are trying to optimise resource mobilisation especially with a view to concentrate on the modernisation of the defence forces. We are re-prioritising our various schemes the focus again being on defence preparedness.

Many points have been made about DRDO. In all Defence debates, criticism is levelled against our Defence Research and

Development Organisation. We are constantly reviewing the working of this Organisation. We are also sometimes internally critical. But I am surprised that very senior Members, who criticised DRDO, did not suggest any alternative approach. Is it their intention to say that we should not... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I have said that their personnel policy should be reviewed I have specially pointed out that.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Is it their point that we should further delay the development of indigenous research capability in our country? In modern warfare we need modern weather system. Years after now, do we have again to depend on foreign equipment alone? Yes, there are delays.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You should not distort what we have said. We want indigenous development perhaps more than what you do.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you require to finish your intervention?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: About twenty minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down for a moment. Let me take consensus because this is time for half-an-hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to take up Half-an-hour discussion after the intervention by the Minister?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please finish your intervention in ten or fifteen minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not waste time of the House.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I was not questioning bonafides of the view of a very senior Member, Shri Amal Datta. But, some of the points he raised in relation to DRDO are not factually correct. For instance, he was talking about Agni, that it was of a German design. It is wrong. Germany does not have a long range missile. Immediately after successful launching of the Agni missile, disinformation was spread in the world. He must be knowing where the disinformation came from. We would like to categorically state that it is not a German engine. It has been a new technology developed in the country. The information is wrong. I can mention other disinformation points which were not correct in his speech. That is why I mentioned his name at that point.

I would like to briefly dwell upon the work of the Defence Research Organisation. (Interruptions). I have information about MBT Arjun. (Interruptions). The Hon. Member mentioned about it. MBT Arjun has had successful mobility trials in this summer in Rajasthan. Based on the results of the trials, army is now placing orders for a number of MBT Arjun in pre-production series. This is the state of development of the MBT Arjun.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What do you mean by placing orders. (Interruptions) That means they have yet not placed the orders.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: We are going to place the orders.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The trials have been going on for the last two years and they have yet refused to place the orders.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The time taken for the development of the main battle tank in the country will be much less than the time taken to develop Leopard II Germany or M1-ABRAM's of the U.S... (Interruptions). Our Defence Research and Development effort is imperative and inevitable. We are aware of the delays. But, there is no other way. (Interruptions).

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why are you giving that comparison? That comparison is not called for at all... (Interruptions)

Why do you give that information (Interruptions.)

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The Department of Defence Production and Supplies which has been integrated in 1984 has been doing extremely good work. It has given us viable and strong Defence Production infrastructure. The Ordnance Factories alone are responsible for more than Rs. 3000 crores of production. The eight Defence production units, all of which including the Mazagone Dock, which had been in the red till last year are making profits. In terms of standard man-power, the capacity utilization of our Ordnance Factories is more than 100 per cent. I am saying this because I have to mention the highlights of the achievement of our Departments. Now, we have increased the supply to the civilian sectors. We have already achieved for the first time around Rs. 90 crores of export. This year our target is Rs. 114 crores. India has been a late comer in the field of armament export. We have already under negotiations about Rs. 300 crores worth of exports this year. Our production value per worker has more than doubled.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is the value addition in this Rs. 120 crores? Can you tell us? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The indigenisation is more than 90 per cent (Interruptions).

It will be unfair not to mention about other organisations, such as, the Coast Guard, apart from our main forces, the Air Force, Navy and the Army. The Coast Guard has more than recouped its expenses. For instance, this year on the customs side, more than Rs. 300 crores worth of contraband goods have been seized by the Coast Guard and it is much more than the money that we are spending on the Coast Guard. This is a young organisation which has been expanding fast.

There are organisations such as the NCC. We have recently taken a decision for reviewing the working of the NCC and have improved its scope. Now all *Navodaya Vidyalayas* will have NCC units. We have revised training syllabi. We have increased the number of National Integration Camps. We have increased the strength of the cadets at ten per cent per year. That is our intention during the Eighth Plan Period. I am mentioning these organisations because these organisations will otherwise escape mention by default... (*Interruptions*)

As regards policy issues, such as, one-rank-one-pension, a consensus is sought to be arrived at among different sections of the House. That is the precise reason why the Raksha Mantri has left this House. He is attending a meeting on it even now and, I am sure, a solution will be found which will be favourable and satisfactory as far as the Ex-servicemen are concerned.

For everything we have to take into account the very serious financial constraint in the country. The actual figure involved on the issue is not Rs. 200 crores as quoted by somebody. Insofar as willy-rilly it may have to be extended to the civilian sector; the total expenditure may go even up to Rs. 1,200 crores per year according to some estimates. These are some of the severe constraints under which we have to operate.

Madam, you would personally be happy to know that Government have taken a decision of inducting women into the Armed Forces. The Navy's scheme has already been cleared. Women will be inducted in certain ranks. As far as Army and the Air Force are concerned, their schemes are under consideration.

I would have liked to reply to many of the very important points raised by some of the Members, like Col. Ram Singh, Col. Ayub Khan, etc., but my time has been curtailed. Hon. Raksha Mantri will give a comprehensive reply tomorrow. I would only like to

finally say that the Defence Ministry is doing all in its power to see that the budget which is allocated to us, including the scarce foreign exchange, is utilised in best possible manner, in such a manner as to maximise the Defence preparedness of the country, so that the maximum portion of this budget will go in for modernisation. We will try to economise in others areas because battles are won at the frontiers of technology, at the frontiers of morale and raw courage. We once again pay a tribute to our fighting men of the armed forces who have always laid down their lives and who are willing to lay down their lives for our country.

In all the other areas, such as, housing welfare and others, we have given the maximum that is possible within our means. For instance, for housing, Rs. 179 crores of Rs. 500 crores of the works budget have been allocated. That is the maximum we could get for accommodation and so on from the Defence Ministry. We are operating under a very severe financial constraint. We are trying to do the best job possible in the given circumstances.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Madam Chairman, would the Minister please conform whether it is a fact that the cost of some of the equipment under production by PSUs and the DRDO has become so excessive that the army has refused to place the orders.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Reduction of Costs and Increasing Productivity has been a continuous Process Madam, I would also like to clarify that a large amount of orders are now being off-loaded for the civil sector and there is a very good progress in indigenisations as well as off-loading for the civil sector, without adversely affecting the work force of the ordnance factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings.