

Acquiring of E-2C Hawkeye from USA by Pakistan

598. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is acquiring E-2C Hawkeye from USA;

(b) if so, the Details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these E-2C Hawkeye could be used in the plains of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) and (b). According to press reports Pakistan has sought "Grumman's E-2C (also known as 'Hawkeye') Early Warning Airborne defence system from USA and a Pakistan Air Force team is expected to visit the United States this month for follow-up discussions in the matter.

(c) and (d). According to US experts "the 'E-2C' could look into Indian even if deployed on the Afghan frontier." Government's concern on the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan from the US, has been conveyed in unmistakable terms to the Governments of both the USA and Pakistan. Government are monitoring with utmost vigil all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Recognition to Associations and Unions of Central Government Employees

599. SHRI LALIT MAKAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether membership of the associations and unions of Central Government Employees has not been verified for the past 30 years; and

(b) whether because of this reason, many associations having the support of majority employees, could not get the recognition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Recognition of service Associations/ Unions is granted on the basis of fulfilment of the conditions and stipulations made in the relevant guidelines on the subject. Such recognition has in fact been granted in appropriate cases.

Grant of Autonomy for Three Hill Sub-Divisions of District Darjeeling in West Bengal

600. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a persistent demand for granting regional autonomy for the people of three hill sub-divisions of the District of Darjeeling in the State of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under examination.

"Air and Water Pollution by Chemical Based Industries in and Around Baroda"

601. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether concentration of chemical-based industries in and around Baroda in public and private sectors has created air, land and water pollution problem to a great extent in recent years;

(b) whether effluents from these chemical-based units have polluted sub-soil drinking water of villages situated around these units;

(c) whether due to air pollution standing agricultural crops of round about villages were damaged;

(d) whether any monitoring system to assess air pollution by these chemical units has been installed; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or proposed