

**Recognition to a shepherd for information on
Pak's plan to attack Kargil**

1519. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a shepherd had given first hand information to the army about the movement of Pakistani security forces to attack Kargil;

(b) if so, whether Government had appreciated his national spirit and awarded him for enabling Indian forces to repulse the Pakistani attack; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so now to enthuse patriotism among people living in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In fact, Pakistani intrusion in the Batalik Sector was first reported by two shepherds to the Indian Army. These two shepherds were suitably rewarded by the local unit of the Army.

Publishing of speculative media reports on sensitive subjects

1520. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsreport under the caption "Army proposes mid-June Shine: Reports", appeared in The Hindustan Times, dated the 7th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to prevent the publication of such highly speculative media reports on an extremely sensitive subject in the interest of amity and peace?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):
(a) The newsreport under the caption "Army Proposes Mid-June Strike, Report" in the Hindustan Times, dated 7th June, 2002 is based on a speculative and conjectured report that appeared in the "Daily Telegraph", published from London. The Daily Telegraph in turn quoted undisclosed diplomatic sources for its story.