

(b) In the court case, the petitioners have alleged that some recruits are linked with persons connected with ISI activities.

(c) Army Headquarters and police authorities have been asked to investigate into the matter.

(d) and (e) The reports from Army Headquarters and police authorities are awaited. Appropriate follow up action will be taken after receipt of the reports.

Former DRDO Chief Joining US Defence Research Programme

5493. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that former DRDO Chief and Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister joined an American University on retirement which is involved in the US defence research programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he was required to seek permission from Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and conditions, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Dr. V.S. Arunachalam, the former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and subsequently the Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency was granted permission to go on extra-ordinary leave to pursue scientific research and to accept assignment as a Distinguished Services Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He continued in the same university after his retirement. The Government are not aware of involvement of Carnegie Mellon University, USA in any US defence research programme.

Output of Ordnance Factories

5494. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal output of the Ordnance factories of the country; and

(b) whether it has been increased after the Kargil war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The output of Ordnance Factories is mainly dependent on the requirement projected by Armed Forces. During Kargil operation enhanced requirement of certain items was projected by the Army.

[17th May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

While enhancement of requirement varied between 7.5% to 30% for selected clothings and general stores items, it varied from 30% to 900% for selected Ammunition items. Ordnance Factories enhanced their production by increase in working hours and re-deployment of manpower. As a result, output of OFs during 1999-2000 increased to Rs. 5400.66 crore as against the initial target of Rs. 4500.28 crore for 1999-2000 set at the beginning of the year registering a growth of 34.20% over the production of the previous year (1998-1999).

China trying to encircle India

5495. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated the 8th April, 2000 captioned "China trying to encircle India"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction with regard thereto stating the strategic implications in so far as country's security is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government keep a constant vigil on our borders and monitor all developments having a bearing on our national security. All necessary measures are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

Defence supplies from France

5496. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during President of India's visit to France, the French Government conveyed its keen interest on the defence supplies to India in a meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a formal proposal in this regard has since been received from Government of France; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) French defence supplies to India are a matter of ongoing cooperation between the two countries and are discussed regularly at different levels including during the recent visit of the President of India to France. The