

by the Government in both Houses of Parliament on 18th April 2000. The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members. Further, the Armed Forces have been directed to step up their vigil all along the LoC and international border. Measures taken to counter Kargil like situation are also being regularly reviewed by the Government.

### **Change in Defence Policy**

3379. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the US-President to India mark any change in the defence and security policy of Government from tilt in favour of erstwhile USSR and Russia to one favouring the US and other western powers; and

(b) if so, how far India's defence forces depended on Soviet arms, aircraft and other defence supplies a decade ago and at present and how far this tilt has been corrected in terms of defence supplies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of India constantly endeavours to establish and maintain friendly ties with all countries. However, establishment or furtherance of such ties with any country, including USA, does not in any way impact on our close relationship with Russia in the field of defence and security. While our defence equipment is sourced from a large number of countries, a significant proportion of our existing stock of defence equipment continues to be of Soviet/Russian origin.

### **Modernisation of ordnance factories**

3380. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ordnance factories will be investing Rs. 1000 crore to modernise and replace existing capital equipment over the next two-three years;

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(b) if so, whether the expenditure on modernisation will be over and above the new purchases being initiated by the ordnance factories;

(c) whether the performance of our ordnance factories have been very poor so far;

(d) whether Government would encourage private industry in this sector; and

(e) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK):(a) A sum of Rs. 1241 Crore is proposed to be invested during the IXth Plan period. Till 1999-2000 a sum of Rs. 512 Crore has been invested and the balance of Rs. 729 Crore is planned for the remaining period i.e., next two years.

(b) Above planned figure is the total investment during IXth Plan and includes replacement of old Plant and Machinery as well induction of new Machines and Processes.

(c) Performance of Ordnance Factories during the proceeding years has been commensurate with the requirements of various major indentors i.e., Defence Services and MHA. The production in Ordnance Factories has been steadily growing over the years, due to enhanced requirement during Kargil Operation, the out-put during 1999-2000 increased from 33% to 90% for ammunition items, 20% to 108% in clothing items and 76% to 233% for cables. An overall increase in value of issues of 34.6% over the previous year was achieved in 1999-2000.

(d) and (e) Ordnance Factories are meeting the requirement of Armed Forces of desired quality and in requisite quantity and in many ways encourage the Civil sector by sourcing of raw materials, components and semi-finished, goods, also before any investment in OFB to create any capability/capacity is envisaged, the existing capability/capacity in civil sector including Public Sector Undertakings are taken into account.

#### **Foreign vessel released by Government of Maharashtra**

3381. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports appearing in the newspaper 'Jansatta' dated 29th February, 2000 indicating