

[26 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

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.

Aerial Surveillance Vehicle

3377. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire high altitude and long endurance Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Vehicle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these would be actually purchased to keep a vigil on the line of control?

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

(b) and (c) The acquisition of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles by the Army and the Navy is under consideration of Ministry of Defence. Negotiations are being conducted with the vendor.

In the case of the Air Force, a contract for this acquisition has been concluded.

Non-occurrence of Kargil like intrusion

3378. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how Government would assure the country of the non-occurrence of Kargil like intrusion in future;

(b) whether Subrahmanyam Committee's Report has blamed the country's external intelligence agency and army for the Kargil intrusion; and

(c) what are the corrective measures being taken by such agencies to check such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government has tabled the Kargil Review Committee Report in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February 2000 and in the Lok Sabha on 24th February 2000 along with its Executive Summary and the Report on action initiated by the Government. Further, a Supplementary Action Taken Report has been tabled

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 atilt 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;