

(b) if so, what steps were taken by government to avoid a Kargil-like situation, involving Pak-troops and military concentration and preparations on the hills Across the LOC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No such report was received by the Army Hqrs. The Government has appointed a 4-Member Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Subramanyam to review the events leading up to the Pakistani aggression in the Kargil district of Ladakh in J and K and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary to safeguard national security against such armed intrusions. The Committee is expected to give its report shortly.

**Shortage of Spares for M-17s**

798. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fleet of M-17s with the Indian Air Force has been suffering for want of spares;

(b) if so, how many M-17s in use were grounded during recent operations in Kargil, for want of spares;

(c) whether it is also a fact that M-17 shot down in Kargil in May this year, was lost largely for want of certain spares; and

(d) if so, the number of precious lives of officers lost therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Number of lives lost in this incident was four.

**BSF Intimation about Pak Movement In Kargil**

799. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Indian Express of May 28, 1999 at page 1, the BSF had informed Government that Pakistan backed infiltrators and army regulars had occupied the higher reaches of Kargil as early as January, 1999, but these movements had gone unnoticed by troops till April and the Army brigade was taken unawares; and