

(c) by when this recruitment drive would be organised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A Recruitment Rally was proposed to be held by Indian Air Force in April 99, in Gopeshwar (U.P.) The Rally was cancelled at the suggestion of the State Administration due to earthquake. However, a separate Recruitment Rally was held on 16-17 April 1999 in Pauri, in which the applicants from UP Hill region participated.

Attack on Srinagar Army HQs.

805. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suicide squad of Pakistan backed militant outfit, Lashkar-e-Toiba, recently attacked the army Headquarters in Srinagar's (Kashmir) Badamibagh cantonment, killing a number of army personnel, including an army Major;

(b) if so, what are the details therefor;

(c) whether Government have critically examined the deficiencies in the security arrangements making the Headquarters vulnerable to militants attack; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) In an incident that took place on 3rd November 1999, three militants armed with assault rifles entered the open area adjacent to the Public Relations Office, which is located at the periphery of Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar and fired at the sentries at the entrance gate. Thereafter they entered the PRO's office and fired indiscriminately on the occupants inside the office. The Quick Reaction Teams of the Army immediately reached the spot and surrounded the area. In the ensuing operations, two militants were killed and their AK 47 rifles were recovered. The militant outfit Laskar-e-Toiba claimed responsibility for the attack.

The following were the Army casualties:—

- (a) Killed: One officer, two JCOs and six Other Ranks.
- (b) Wounded: Six Other Ranks.
- (c) One Jawan of BSF was also killed and one Jawan of Defence Service Corps was wounded.

The security arrangements in the Cantonment area have been reviewed after the incident and necessary steps initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents. A Court of Inquiry has also been ordered to inquire into the lapses, if any.

Defence production factory at Rajgir

806. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have acquired some land at Rajgir in Bihar to set up a factory for defence production; and
- (b) if so, the details of the project and what further steps are being taken to set up the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Action has been initiated to acquire land for setting up of an Ordnance Factory at Rajgir in Nalanda District of Bihar.

(c) Project envisages an investment of approximately Rs. 850/- crores to set up facilities for production of propellants for high calibre ammunition for which a detailed project report has been prepared.

Unused Machines in Ordnance Factory, Kanpur

†807. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of machines being imported since long in the ordnance factory, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, are lying idle and are not being used, due to which they have become useless; and
- (b) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.