

National executive meeting on BJP attended by Defence personnel

818. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two high ranking defence personnel, one Lt. General and one Air Vice-Marshal attended the meeting of the BJP National Executive on Monday, May 31, 1999; and

(b) if so, in what capacity and circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presentations were made by the senior defence personnel before various fora including the meeting referred to in the question to facilitate an understanding and accurate assessment, of the complexity and the efficacy of the armed forces operations launched to evict Pakistani intruders in Kargil.

Attack on Army camps

819. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the increased attacks by militants on Army camps in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) why no preventive measures were taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The following seem to be the main factors behind the recent attacks by the militants on army camps etc. in J&K:—

(a) Growing frustration among the militants due to lack of any tangible success.

(b) Increased infiltration during Kargil conflict, when some Army units had to be redeployed for operations.

(c) Qualitative escalation in militancy due to greater presence of foreign mercenaries, who are trained by Pak ISI/Army and are better equipped.

(d) Suicidal missions to gain media attention.

(e) Efforts to generate a fear psychosis among the local population.