

<i>Name of VIP</i>	<i>Amount (Rs)</i>	<i>No of Journeys Undertaken</i>
Shri CM. Ibrahim as authorised by the Prime Minister	28,13,333 Total: 54,61,497	4

Replacement of INS Vikrant and INS Virat

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

(b) whether Government have finally decided to dispose of INS Vikrant as scrap;

(c) if so, whether no proper use of the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant battle ship like training, instruction, exhibition or amusement was considered feasible or desirable; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been and are being taken to replace INS Vikrant and Virat, as they go out of service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra have evinced interest in converting INS 'Vikrant', which was decommissioned in January 1997, into a maritime museum.

(e) ©Necessary steps to find replacements have been taken. The construction of an Air Defence Ship has already been sanctioned.

Recruitment in Air Force

†804. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence had made announcement regarding recruitment in Air Force in the bordering district Chamoli in hilly area of U.P. in April-May 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for not organising this recruitment drive so far; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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.