

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Shelling Near Line of Control by Pakistan**

788. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continued shelling by the Pakistani army near the Line of Control during the last few months; and

(b) if so, the number of casualties suffered by India and what steps have been taken are proposed to be taken to ease the tension created by Government of Pakistan?

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

(b) During the period from 1st August 1999 to 30th November 1999, twenty Army personnel and 12 civilians were killed and 137 Army personnel, 10 BSF personnel and 18 civilians were wounded due to unprovoked Pakistani firing across the Line of Control. Appropriate retaliatory fire is brought down upon the Pakistani troops.

Pakistan has long been urged, through diplomatic and military channels, to desist from this unprovoked firing.

Use of coir products for border roads

789. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has submitted any representation for using the Coir products for border roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any action for using Coir for border roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?