

Measures in the Military Field for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

3. Constant vigil is kept on our borders and all developments having a bearing on our national security are closely monitored. All necessary measures continue to be taken to maintain defence preparedness.

Need to modernise Indian Defence

1408. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to modernise Indian defence;
- (b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan in this direction;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the estimate of expenditure on this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) It would not be in the public interest to divulge details of the plans for modernisation of the Armed Forces or the likely expenditure to be incurred on such plans.

Committee on financial requirements of J&K and North-East

1409. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have constituted a High Level Committee for working out financial requirements of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to security and development needs, for the current financial year;
- (b) the details of members of the Committee and the details of its reports; and
- (c) whether there is no plan to constitute a Committee for the North-Eastern States regarding the financial requirement, like that of Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a meeting convened by the Home Minister on 17.11.1999 with the Chief Minister, J&K, Union Finance Minister, Defence Minister and