

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