

Withdrawal of troops from fringe of LoC by Pakistan

1953. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan had withdrawn its troops from the fringe of the LoC w.e.f. 20th December, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are reports to the effect that consequent to Pakistan's announcement of partial withdrawal of troops during the third week of December, 2000, certain reserve formations and some formations undergoing training in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir moved to their permanent locations. There are, however, no confirmed inputs to suggest reduction/withdrawal of troops physically deployed on the Line of Control.

All appropriate steps to maintain full alertness continue to be taken.

IAF modernisation vis-a-vis China and Pakistan acquisitions

1954. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the year 2010, China will have over 1700 operational military aircraft of which 300 would be of the Su 30 class and over 1400 F7 class aircraft; and

(b) if so, whether Government's growth and modernisation Plan for the IAF is adequate to meet the threat from both China and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No confirmed information is available in this regard.

(b) Modernization of Indian Air Force is an on-going process, aiming to meet the threat from any adversary.

Creation of a separate department for Border Management

1955. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Group of Ministers, studying the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee has suggested the creation of separate Department of Border Management within the Union Home Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this plan and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers (GoM) consisting of the Home Minister, the Raksha Mantri, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister has made a series of recommendations for reforming the National Security System including management of borders. The Report of the GoM has been presented to the Prime Minister on February 26, 2001 and decisions as considered appropriate will be taken by the Government after careful consideration of all relevant issues in due course of time.

Red Fort attack

1956. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants struck at Red Fort, Delhi, on Friday, 24th December, 2000 killing two security personnel;

(b) whether in an encounter in South Delhi, Okhla Village, one of the militants involved in the earlier attack in Red Fort Cantt., was killed and others nabbed involving recovery of arms and documents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and