

Situation in the Defence production Unit at Saintala in Orissa

1900. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the tense situation prevailing at the Defence Production Unit at Saintala near Titlagarh in Bolangir district of Orissa;

(b) whether it is due to inadequate attention paid by the Defence Production unit in the recruitment of candidates for various posts; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) There is no tension prevailing at the Defence Production Unit which is running smoothly. However, there is some tension outside the defence area arising out of the unrest amongst unemployed youth desirous of getting employment in the factory.

(b) No, Sir. Utmost care is being taken in the recruitment of land displaced persons and local candidates for eligible posts.

(c) Does not arise.

Entry of microlight pilotless aircraft in Indian territory

1901. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces in J&K have recently seized two microlight pilotless aircrafts bearing Pakistani and Taiwanese marks in the border districts of Rajouri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the pilotless aircrafts entered in our territory and whether the security agencies at border are negligent in their duties;

(d) whether any serious investigation has been made into the incident; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (e) There is no report of recovery of any micro-light pilotless aircraft in J&K. Two aeromodels are however reported to have been recovered by J&K police in Rajouri district on 5th Nov. 98. Details of the aeromodels recovered are as under:—

(a) Made of Balsa wood from Taiwan, with a Japanese engine.

(2) Length of the model is six feet with a wing span of six feet.

(c) Radio control set with four channels.

(d) Total weight is 4.5 kg with a payload of 500g to one kg.

(e) Capable of achieving speeds of 80-100 Kmph and fly upto 4000' to 5000' above ground level.

(f) Can be manoeuvred by a handler within a radius of 1 to 1.5 km based on line of sight and fly up to 20 to 30 minutes at a stretch.

The investigation is being carried out by the local police. The Security Forces are maintaining constant vigil on the borders.

Enquiry into the antecedents of Air Force Chief

1902. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry asked for the verification of the antecedents of Air Marshal Sarin, the Chief of Air Force; and

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unused Defence Airports

1903. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unused Defence Airports in the country;

(b) the names of all such Airports;

(c) whether any alternate use has been planned; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (d) There are a few defence airfields in the country which have been identified as unused airfields. Out of these, some have been disposed of to the state Governments.

Considering the ever changing operational/strategic requirements, any of these airfields may be required to be used in future. Therefore, in the interest of national security, it would not be desirable to disclose the details in this regard.

India's participation in WPNS

1904. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has participated at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) held in Seoul and as a result has acquired an observer status in the influential 22-Nation forum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) The invitation to India to participate in the Sixth Western Pacific Naval Symposium, held in Seoul from October 11-17, 1998, resulted from interaction between the Indian Navy and the Navies of the Western Pacific Region during recent years including interaction at the level of Chiefs of Naval Staff. The Indian Navy was represented at the Forum. India was unanimously granted observer status and India's inclusion in the forum has been welcomed by all the participants. It was accepted that continued multilateral links and cooperation at the professional levels would enhance security, cooperation and mutual understanding.

CSD canteens vis-a-vis small entrepreneurs

1905. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any outside agency has been asked to examine the old systems prevalent in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);

(b) if so, the name of this agency;

(c) whether it is fact that innumerable hurdles are placed before small entrepreneurs from small towns who wish to do business with CSD;

(d) whether obscure procedures and hurdles are part of any elaborate military strategy; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to openly discuss business with small entrepreneurs from outside the metropolitan towns?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employment