

(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. RAMACHAN DRAIAH: 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*

of outside agencies to study management system of the CSD is an on-going process. Studies have been carried out in the past by organisations like College of Defence Management Data Consultancy Services, DCM Data Products, INS Hamla and the NITT.

(c) to (e) As CSD's purchases are meant for sale to the troops and other entitled categories, the same are based on their preference/ choice. In such purchases, CSD does not discriminate between vendors, on the ground of size/capacity and no preference is shown to any category of suppliers. CSD's purchase-field is not confined to large cities; it is widespread and broad-based. The small scale entrepreneurs are regularly, encouraged to supply standard products.

Upgradation of ITR

1906. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the upgradation of the famed Interim Test Range (ITR) at Balasore in Orissa;

(b) if so, the various plans formulated and programmes prepared under the upgradation proposal; and

(c) the various steps taken that in direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) There is no proposal to upgrade the Interim Test Range (ITR). However continuous improvement of instrumentation in ITR is carried out to impart better operational features.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Insurance in North-East

1907. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of murders and killings, State-wise, on account of insurgent activities in each of the years since 1991-92 in the North Eastern region;

(b) whether, any concrete evidence exists establishing formal or informal arrangements between terrorist groups in the North-Eastern region and agents of foreign, intelligence; and

(c) whether the representations have been made to foreign Governments with whom we maintain diplomatic links about involvement of their agents in such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The details are given in the statement (see below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Statewise number of killings Due to Insurgent activities During 1991-1998.

Sr.No	State	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	5	2	0	0	15	4
2	Assam	158	91	99	211	240	389	370	(upto Oct.) 466 (upto Oct.)