

manning the flying training establishments lack institutional expertise in their field and are not fully professionally competent, which is affecting the trainees competence; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to upgrade the skill of the present incumbents or to appoint duly qualified instructors?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The flying instructors and senior flying supervisors posted to flying training establishments are carefully selected depending on their qualifications and experience. Before a pilot is posted as an instructor, he undergoes a rigorous 6 months course for flying instructional duties. Moreover, constant checks are maintained to review the performance of trainee pilots to ensure the qualitative aspects of training.

(b) Not applicable in view of answer (a) above. However, various courses/examinations are conducted regularly to hone the skills of the instructors.

MBT Arjun

3833. **SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:**
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Main Battle Tank (MBT) project approved in 1974 at a cost of Rs. 15.50 crore was revised and raised to Rs. 56.50 crore and Rs. 280.80 crore respectively in 1987;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in the project and what is the latest estimated cost thereof, indicating the cost over run suffered so far; and

(c) whether any vested interests national or multi-national are operating to the detriment of the project; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The cost of MBT 'Arjun' project was revised to Rs. 56.66 crore in October 1980 and to Rs. 280.80 crore in March 1987. The cost was enhanced to cater for the subsequent changes in qualitative requirements and for the increased scope of the project envisaging higher number of prototypes and manufacture of pre-production series tanks.

(b) After successful completion of user trials, MBT 'Arjun' has entered limited series production phase. There has been no cost-revision after March 1987.

(c) Government have not come across any evidence in this regard.

Migration from Jammu and Kashmir

3834. **PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:**
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the intermittent firing on the Indian villages along the line of actual control being continued by Pakistani troops there is large scale migration of the people from Kargil, Baramula and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of families that have migrated from the affected villages to safer places, and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Unprovoked firing from Pakistani troops across the Line of Control is a recurring phenomenon and has been continuing for years. Sometimes it affects normal life including agricultural activities of the people living in villages near the border. On a few occasions in 1997, Pakistani troops targeted civilian areas in Kargil sector and there was migration of people. During the current year, on 29/30 June 1998, in Kargil sector a High

School library and a class-room were destroyed due to Pak shelling. There are no reports of any migration of people in Kargil, Baramula and Kupwara districts due to Pakistani firing.

रक्षा कर्मियों की शिकायतों के समाधान हेतु न्यायाधिकरण

3835. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा दायर की गई कितनी याचिकाएं उच्च न्यायालय में विचाराधीन / लंबित पड़ी हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन रक्षा कर्मियों की शिकायतों का समाधान करने के लिए किसी न्यायाधिकरण की स्थापना करने का विचार रखती है जो सेवा नियमों और संस्थानिक तथा 'रैपिड रिमेडी सिस्टम' के अंतर्गत दिए गए निर्णय से संतुष्ट नहीं हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह न्यायाधिकरण कब तक स्थापित किया जाएगा?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नांडीज): (क) से (ग) गत पांच वर्ष के दौरान सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा दायर की गई याचिकाओं और उच्च न्यायालयों में लंबित याचिकाओं के ब्यौरे नीचे दिए गए अनुसार हैं:—

वर्ष	सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा उच्च न्यायालयों में फाइल की गई याचिकाओं की संख्या	उच्च न्यायालयों में लंबित याचिकाओं की संख्या
1993	763	446
1994	1096	547
1995	1090	432
1996	1304	534
1997	1489	637

सरकार पहले सशस्त्र सेना कर्मियों के संबंध में एक सशस्त्र सेना प्रशासनिक और कोर्ट मार्शल अधिकरण स्थापित करने के लिए सिद्धांत रूप से सहमत हो गई थी। तत्पश्चात् इस मामले पर आगे कार्यवाही करते समय

कुछ कानूनी और प्रशासनिक मुद्दे सामने आए। इन मुद्दों पर गहन विचार-विमर्श करने के पश्चात् कोई निर्णय लिया जाएगा।

Depleting strength of frigates

3836. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strength of frigates in the Indian Navy has been depleting due to de-commissioning of the old frigates; and

(b) the measures taken to construct new ones at a quicker pace in ship building docks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following measures have been taken to construct new destroyers/ frigates at the defence shipyards:—

(i) Two destroyers are under construction at MDL, Mumbai. One destroyer has already been commissioned in November, 1997.

(ii) Three frigates are under construction at GRSE, Calcutta.

(iii) Orders have recently been placed for construction of three frigates at MDL, Mumbai.

The government has also approved, in October 1997, import of three frigates.

Security angle of Essar and Reliance refinery projects

3837. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the three wings of the Armed Forces have expressed concern over the refinery projects of the Essar and Reliance Group from the security angle in view of their proximity with the border;

(b) if so, the details of their findings; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?