

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to provide soldiers with new technology rifles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The INSAS rifle was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based on Army's Qualitative Requirements. It was inducted into the Army after extensive trials in the year 1996-1997. Since inception, design of rifle, has undergone five modifications as per user's requirement to make it more user-friendly. The Ordnance Factory Board is supplying INSAS rifles duly proved and accepted by the Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), an agency designated by the Defence Forces. The rifle tested for its quality, safety and strength, operational requirements and other rigorous tests as per the stipulated standards laid down by DGQA.

(c) and (d) With the change in the operational environment and to keep pace with new technology, Qualitative Requirements for a New Generation Assault Rifle of current technology have been spelt out by the Army.

Security checks in the southern coastal areas

1983. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently directed the Navy and Coast Guard to maintain a high state of alert in the Southern Coastal areas;

(b) if so, whether illegal infiltration from the Southern Coastal areas have increased in the past few months;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Navy and Coast Guard have maintained security checks in the Southern Coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The Indian Navy (IN) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) always remain in a state of readiness to protect the country's coastal waters, including thwarting any attempt at infiltration. While no specific report about any illegal infiltration from the southern coastline of the country has been received, the coastal waters of the country are guarded by the ICG and the IN in coordination with the State Police and other agencies like Customs through various means including aerial surveillance, maritime patrolling etc.

Procedural delays in Defence Procurements

1984. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Minister acknowledged need to keep pace with changing technology and system as pointed out that there was a need to cut red tape and procedural delays in country's procurement mechanism for the armed forces;