

Reservation for women in Cantonment Board

1884. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no reservation of seats in the Cantonment Board for women despite the fact that there is reservation in local bodies like Panchayat, Municipal Committee etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) by when seats are proposed to be reserved for women in the Cantonment Board?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Provision for reservation for women representatives in local bodies as per the 74th amendment to the Constitution, has not been extended to Cantonment Boards. The Cantonments Act, 1924 and the existing rules do not provide for reservation of women in Cantonment Boards. This matter will, however, be considered when the proposed amendment of Cantonment Act is taken up.

Modernisation of technologies in ordnance factories

1885. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the action taken to update technologies in Ordnance factories to supply all advanced systems weapon locating radar's night vision devices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): 1. Ordnance Factories do not manufacture RADAR including Weapon Locating RADARS.

2. Ordnance Factory, Dehradun has been supplying Passive Night Vision Devices for various applications to the Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces for several years.

3. Opto-electronics Factory, Dehradun is manufacturing Tank and Armoured Personnel Carrier, mounted Night Vision Devices under Licence Agreement.

4. Action is in progress for updating facilities in Ordnance factories in keeping with technological developments in these areas as well as in the manufacture of arms and ammunition.

Welfare activities by Defence Forces

1886. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of various welfare activities undertaken by the defence forces alongwith the achievements made during the last three years;

(b) whether some welfare activities including protection from erosion reconstruction of roads and health aid were undertaken in Majuli island of Assam; and

(c) if so, the specific programmes proposed for future implementation based on the experience and urgency of protecting the island from erosion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) to (c) As a part of its overall counter insurgency campaign, the Army undertakes only small scale civic action projects from time to time, in insurgency affected areas of the North-East Region, which have been subjected to depredatory activities by the terrorists and have been denied developmental activities. Army has accordingly undertaken developmental works in the States of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. During the years 1996-99, the Army undertook a major project code-named 'Operation Good Samaritan' in the States of Nagaland and Manipur. The details of work carried out are as under:-

(i)	Building constructed/repaired	698 Nos.
(ii)	Toilet Blocks constructed	161 Nos.
(iii)	Culverts constructed/repaired	128 Nos.
(iv)	Water supplied to	308 locations
(v)	Water Points established	252 Nos.