

Concentration of troops along India's borders

*56. SHRI J. K. JAIN :

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy concentration of troops along India's borders by neighbouring countries and the arms build up in the Indian Ocean are causing a threat to the country's security;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to defuse the tension;

(c) whether any plan has been chalked out to augment and to further modernise the fleet of the Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) There is no evidence of any unusual concentration of troops along India's borders by neighbouring countries. There is, however, reliable information that armed forces of our neighbouring countries are being modernised and strengthened. There are also reports regarding increasing militarisation of Indian Ocean by big powers. These developments undoubtedly have security implications for us.

(b) India is committed to the policy of maintaining friendly relations with the neighbouring countries. Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a 'Zone of Peace' Government have taken several diplomatic initiatives in this regard.

(c) and (d) Consistent with our national objective modernisation of Indian Navy is an on-going process. The Naval plans are prepared keeping in view foreseen threat perceptions as well as technological developments in hardware from time to time.

Transfer of shares of FERA Company

*57. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign shareholder of a FERA company is permitted to sell the share of the company to any other person in a foreign country without obtaining the permission of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what guidelines Government have issued for granting permission in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) According to Section 19 (5) of FERA, 1973 no transfer of any share of a company registered in India made by a person resident outside India or by a national of a foreign state to another person whether resident in India or outside India shall be valid unless such transfer is confirmed by the Reserve Bank of India. However this Section is not applicable to transfer of ownership of companies registered outside India which in turn might be holding shares of Indian companies.

The Reserve Bank of India, being the statutory authority, considers proposals under the provisions of FERA 1973, for transfer of shares on merits. No specific guidelines have been issued by Government for granting permission in such cases.

Loans to adivasis and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*58. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the distribution of more loans to Adivasis, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society;