

confirmed information in this regard.

(b) and (c) Government watch all developments in our security environment and take appropriate measures for updating our defence preparedness.

### **Replacement of MIG-23 war planes**

1328. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any information to the effect that the latest American war plane F-16 is a much better plane for replacing the cumbersome and costly war planes like MIG-23;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to rethink about the assembling and manufacturing of MIG-23 which has become outdated;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, for how long this plane would be manufactured in India ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :**

(a) Government are aware of the combat potential of F-16 and MIG-23 aircraft. Each aircraft has its own advantages and limitations.

(b) The question does not arise in view of (a) above. Decisions regarding indigenous manufacture of aircraft are taken on the basis of requirement of Air Force and techno-economic feasibility of such proposals.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of above.

### **Capture of Indian border guards and hoisting of Chinese National Flag by China in Ladakh**

1329. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA :

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

SHRI JASWANT SINGH:

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to press reports that Chinese soldiers have captured and taken away 3 Indian Border Guards in the Chusul/Dem-chowk area where they recently introduced into Indian Territory;

(b) whether it is a fact that China hoisted their national flag in the Indian territory in Ladakh recently ; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :**

(a) Yes, Sir. There is, however, no truth in this.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Loss of life due to firing by Pakistan**

1330. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 157 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th October, 1982 and state the number of incidents of firing that took place from the Pakistan side in the State of Jammu