

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) the circumstances under which development programme of "Surya" and "Durga" are being shelved by the Defence Research and Development Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation has never undertaken development of any missile called 'Durga'. Therefore, the question of its shelving does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Development of these missiles was never undertaken. Therefore, the question of their shelving does not arise.

Production of Spare Parts

2504. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to take concrete steps to produce at least spares for all defence equipments in 39 ordnance factories in order to reduce our dependence on foreign sources during crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Spares for following types of equipments are manufactured and supplied by Ordnance Factories as per requirement projected by the services:

(i) Indigenously developed equipments productionised by Ordnance Factories but using imported systems and components, and

(ii) Equipments manufactured by Ordnance Factories through Transfer of Technology' (TOT) using both imported and indigenously manufactured systems and components.

There is a third category viz. imported equipment -which has not been productionised.

In all such cases there is a concerted attempt at indigenisation of spares to the maximum extent possible based on criticality as well

as economic viability. The Ordnance Factories have in their total production achieved an indigenisation level of almost 95%. Ordnance Factories do not manufacture Aeronautical and Naval equipments.

Position of Indian Army on Indo-Pak Border

2505. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has recently constructed an embankment on the Ravi which would divert the river to the Indian side;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impacts on the position of Indian Army on the Indo-Pak border;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Pakistan Government's reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Pakistan has constructed a number of embankments along Ravi river, on their side, as flood control measures, adjoining our Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. Though there is no major diversion of the river, the construction of embankments by Pakistan has the effect of diverting the flow of the river water towards India which could cause damage to our Border Out Posts and defensive bunds/embankments in case of heavy floods.

A Committee on Remedial Works for Flood Protection Embankments on River Ravi and Sutlej along Indo-Pak Border has been formed by the Government to counter the effect of works done by Pakistan. In addition to the protective works undertaken by the Government of Punjab from its own resources, the Union Government is also providing financial assistance to the Government of Punjab for undertaking protective works as per the recommendations of the Committee.