

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : No, Sir.

Encroachment in Cantonment Areas

1831. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unauthorized construction and encroachment in cantonment areas are taking place in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the location-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) There are some reports of unauthorized construction and encroachments on defence land under the management of Cantonment Boards and Defence Estates Officers in various parts of the country.

(b) Location-wise details and reasons therefor are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Action is being taken under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 2006 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 and the Rules framed thereunder to remove encroachments.

Crash of MIG-21 aircrafts

†1832. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MIG-21 aircrafts that have crashed during the last five years and the number of brave soldiers who were martyred in these accidents;
- (b) the defects detected by Government in investigation of MIG-21 aircrafts;
- (c) whether Government proposes to retire fleet of these aircrafts for the security of our brave pilots; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) Since April, 2005, a total of 19 MIG-21 aircrafts of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed. In these crashes, 7 pilot were killed.

(b) to (d) Every aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry to determine the cause of the accident and remedial measures are taken. Accidents are due to reasons like technical defects and human error. Phasing out of aircrafts is contingent upon various factors like technical life of the aircrafts and operational requirements of the IAF and is reviewed from time to time.

Release of MOD share for Barmer lift drinking water supply project

†1833. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of time schedule by when the remaining amount of Ministry of Defence share for Barmer lift drinking water supply project would be released?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : Out of the estimated Defence share in the Barmer lift drinking water supply project Rs. 82.78 Crore has already been released in April, 2010. The balance payment is being released in a phased manner depending on the progress of the work.

Strategic roads along border

1834. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to strengthen the line of communication and movement, the Union Government has asked the Border Roads Organisation to focus on constructing strategic roads and airfields along the border with China and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made by the Border Roads Organisation in this regard;

(c) whether Government had identified the key factors for poor infrastructure in areas along the Line of Actual Control with China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Border Road Organisation (BRO) has been asked to concentrate on strategic roads;