

श्री सुनील दत्त: सभापति महोदय मुझे इस मंत्रालय में आए हुए केवल 6 महीने हुए हैं। बच्चा भी अगर पैदा करना हो तो 9 महीने लगते हैं। हमारे ऑनरेबल मैनबर इतने परेशान हो रहे हैं। आप मुझे कुछ मौका दीजिए, मैं आपको यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि अभी जो 15 अर्जुन अवार्ड हमने दिए हैं, हमें कहीं से भी इस तरह की कोई शिकायत नहीं आई है। मैं माननीय सदस्य से कहना चाहता हूँ कि पुरानी बातें छोड़ दीजिए, आज की बात कीजिए, आज के बाद क्या होगा, उसका मैं यकीन दिलाता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: आप इन पर थोड़ा विश्वास करिए।

### **Militant efforts to sneak into J&K**

\*103. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir have recently stepped up their efforts to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir valley; and

(b) if so, how many infiltrators have actually been killed by the Armed Forces and how many of them have sneaked in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two months?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) There has been an overall decrease in the number of actual infiltrations from across the Line of Control (LoC) compared to last year. However, there was an increase in the infiltration attempts in November, 2004 by terrorists as compared to the months of September and October 2004.

(b) As per reports available, so far, during September and October 2004, 15 infiltrators have been killed during infiltration attempts into Jammu and Kashmir, while it is estimated that more than 30 may have sneaked in.

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मेरा पहला सप्लीमेंटरी है कि कश्मीर का मामला देश की सम्प्रभुता और अखंडता से संदर्भित है और इस मामले में कोई स्थायी नीति बहुत आवश्यक है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने स्वयं अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि सितम्बर-अक्टूबर में हमले घट गए आतंकवादियों के, फिर नवंबर में बढ़ गए। इस बात की क्या गारंटी है कि फिर दिसंबर-जनवरी में और नहीं बढ़ेंगे? यहां डाक्टर कर्ण सिंह जी भी बैठे हैं और हम यह चाहते हैं कि कश्मीर में कोई प्रयोग जो हो, स्थायी प्रयोग हो। सरकारें आती हैं और जाती हैं, लेकिन प्रयोग चलता रहता है।

श्री सभापति: प्लीज क्वेश्चन करिए।

श्री अमर सिंह: इस बात की क्या सुरक्षा है कि अब आतंकवाद जो नवंबर में बढ़ गया है, वह दिसंबर और जनवरी में घट जाएगा। ट्रूप्स घटाने की इस नीति का निर्णय क्या सर्वदलीय बैठक में आपने मिलकर लिया है या सरकार की एकतरफा नीति है?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, so far as infiltration and exfiltration is concerned throughout the last fifteen years, when the terrorist activities have increased in Jammu and Kashmir, there has been no fixed numbers that so many will come in so many months; the figures, of course, fluctuate. But, normally, there is a peak period, when the snow melts at the high altitude passes, and then the activities increase. When the weather conditions turn hostile, naturally, the activities decrease. So far as the assessment is concerned, that has been the trend, more or less, noticed throughout the year.

Secondly, it also depends on to what extent we are able to resist infiltration and exfiltration. What we have suggested, on a number of occasions, is that because of additional vigilance, because of completion of fencing along the Line of Control, because of surveillance and providing certain gadgets along the fencing, it has been possible to reduce the number of actual infiltrators. If the hon. Member is interested in having the figures, I can give them. According to the statement of my colleague, the Minister of Home Affairs, who makes an assessment on these, during the period from January to October, 2003 and January to October, 2004, there has been a reduction to the extent of 60 per cent in infiltration and exfiltration; in terms of figures, from 1,211 to 496.

As regards the additional question which the hon. Member put, why the Government took a decision to reduce the forces, the decision was taken on the basis of an assessment made by the Ministry of Home Affairs, by the State Government, as also by our own assessment, I mean, the Armed Forces in the Ministry of Defence. It was decided that a situation has been created where we can take the risk of reducing the forces.

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मेरा एक संक्षिप्त-सा सवाल है, आतंकवाद सितम्बर, अक्टूबर में घटा है और ट्रूप्स घटाने से नवम्बर में बढ़ा है। अब अगर आतंकवाद की बढ़ती हुई घटनाएं इसी तरह चालू रहीं और अगर आतंकवाद कम नहीं हुआ तो पहले कही तरह से आप ट्रूप्स बढ़ाने का आश्वासन सदन को देंगे?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The question of redeployment is always there because it depends on the situation and we have mentioned that it will depend on the situation, but as far as the hon. Member who is also a senior leader of an important political party is concerned, he is aware of the fact that this decision of the Government is well received, including the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that the Chief of the Army gives a statement that militancy has come down. Whereas from the Home Ministry, the DGO of Border Security Force says on the other hand that infiltration has increased. Would you kindly explain to the House why there is this disparity between the two statements? And is the Minister aware that there is—the line that we are talking so high of—the barbed wire that we have put up between the two Kashmirs? Do you also know firstly, that they have a certain powder that they put on this wire and this wire melts, and secondly, they have cutters to cut this line to infiltrate into the State? Will the Minister kindly give this House any information on these?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As far as the question of so-called discrepancy is concerned, Sir, there is no discrepancy as such in the assessment of the Ministry of Home Affairs. What we have said is that the actual number of physical infiltration has been reduced. The figure I have already quoted. But there is no let up in the attempt of infiltration. What has happened is, because of vigilance, because of fencing, it has been possible to reduce the attempts but there is no dearth or lack of attempt. The attempts did not succeed. I do not say fencing or providing unmanned radar or surveillance has reduced the attempts. These are the gadgets and equipments that are fool-proof. When we build up certain instruments to prevent, they also use other instruments to foil the attempt. There is no doubt that it is not just a terrorist activity in the normal sense of the term, it is almost a proxy war. In the last 15 years, Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Member is well aware of and much more aware of than myself, being the Chief Minister of the State for pretty long years, in the last 15 years, the number of weapons recovered are 33,351 and most of them are sophisticated and you can almost win a small war with these type of weapons, which is not just a normal terrorist activity, it is some sort of proxy war.

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** Mr. Chaiman, Sir, apart from the figures regarding infiltration which can always be questioned, but more or less if we accept them at face value. Is the hon. Minister aware that there are substantial number of militants who are actually living within the State, in the mountain ranges, in the Zabarwan range, the Pir Punjal range, the Kali Dhar, the Gul Gulabgarh area, the Doda mountain? There are militants who are living there, who are working there, who are acting there. So we should not only think that just because there is a statistical drop in the number of infiltrators, therefore, the situation would stabilise. This element of people who are living in that area, well it is a highly mountainous area and we should focus our attention on that element also and not simply talk about statistics of infiltration. Is the hon. Minister aware of this aspect of the problem?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** Sir, the hon. Member is fully aware of the limitation a Minister has with reference to a question and the language in which it has been put. The hon. Member did not want to know the overall assessment. The question was whether the number of infiltrators has reduced or whether it has been increased. Therefore, my answer also will respond to that. Therefore, as far as the other part of the question is concerned, yes, we are fully aware of it and even we are aware of the fact that the tactics of the terrorists has also changed. Nowadays, it is not just concerted attacks are taking place, sometimes some street urchins are picked up by giving some money and asking them to throw a grenade and run away. These types of activities are also increasing. Sometimes, the *Fidayeen* attacks, which you have noticed and those reported in the newspapers, have increased substantially where the number of casualties on both the sides has been more.

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:** Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply to a supplementary said that there is no fixed number. Naturally, there is no fixed number of infiltrators. But, we are all aware from various newspapers and other reports that there is an optimum number. There is a 'critical mass', which the terrorists want to maintain within Jammu and Kashmir, and infiltration depends on the depletion of that number and they pick up when they feel that the number has declined beyond that 'critical mass'. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Government of India as to what has been the

impact of the fence and the various other devices which have been put in place. To what extent can we say that infiltration stands reduced as a result of the efforts that we have made, this country has made? Is the Minister aware of any sign or any evidence that there has been a let up in the cross-border infiltration and terrorism as far as our neighbour Pakistan is concerned?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the last part of the question is concerned, as per the information available with us, and the information available from different sources, there is no let up. The entire infrastructure establishment is there. According to the information available, 67 terrorist camps and 37 launch pads are in operation in Pakistan and in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. So, there is no lack of effort and no let up.

In regard to the presence of the hardcore terrorists within the State and their activities, surely, the State Government—the hon. Member is fully aware of the Joint Command operating under the Chief Minister of the State, involving the army, security forces and Central Paramilitary forces—takes stock of the situation. It is taking stock of the situation. The number of incidents has also been reduced to some extent. But we cannot say that we have reached a situation which can be described as 'comfortable situation' or, we have made substantial improvement in the situation. But, these are the only security and law-enforcing measures. In addition to this, side-by-side, dialogue and political talks with the persons concerned are also being carried on. Ultimately, the overall impact would be this. The efforts of the law-enforcing machinery, political dialogue, discussion to arrive at a solution, all these things taken together may have an impact which may be visible, not merely from one side of the picture.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, the question relates to two things—those who have been killed and those who have succeeded in infiltration. Now, while I understand that it is easy to find out the number of people who have been killed, will the Minister kindly tell this House by what curious methods he determines the number of persons who have infiltrated? This mysterious process should be explained to us because I suspect that this is only a guess work based upon a proportion of 2:1, that for everyone that you killed two have sneaked in and it is based on some kind of a guess work which is going on for a long time in your Ministry without any rationale, intelligible method of detection.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Surely, the terrorists do not stand in the queue as infiltrators and tell us to count them. Surely, it is an estimation. We may be wrong because, after all, their job is to infiltrate and avert the security forces and our job is to prevent them. So, it is an estimation. There is no scientific method of calculating the number of infiltrators. I agree with the hon. Member that it is some sort of a guess. One may call it, at least, an intelligent guess.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The honest answer should be, "We are unable to give the number of infiltrators."

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is simply not possible. I am unable to give it. Perhaps, it is not possible for anybody in this country to give you the exact number because they have not infiltrated with our consent or our permission. They have done it on their own.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for the increased vigilance than before, for putting in place additional troops, putting barbed wire fencing. These steps, as he has claimed, would definitely reduce infiltration. But I would like to put him a question, bearing another aspect in mind. It is almost unanimously accepted that no matter how many terrorists enter whether fifteen or twenty or thirty—it is irrelevant—they will not get vulnerable youth to do their biddings if we are able to give a purposeful objective goal to the Kashmiri youth. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister had visited the State of J&K. He had announced that in addition to the normal recruitment to the two battalions of IRB, the Government of India has decided to increase this to another five, or, altogether ten battalions, where Kashmiri youth would be recruited, deployed within the State or elsewhere. I would like to know when this process of recruitment is going to start so that the young people, who fall prey to infiltrators, can have a purpose in their life and can lead an honest life.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of raising battalions is concerned — we call it home and hearth battalions — it is already on. Some recruitment has already taken place. Recently, it has been decided to raise the number of battalions. More persons would be recruited. It is an ongoing process, and we would like to expedite it. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that in order to divert the attention of the youth, and to ensure that they are not attracted to these types of

violent and disruptive activities, massive economic activities are needed there, not only for stepping up or developing the economy there, but this is one of the basic fundamental reasons, which leads to these types of activities. I am not using the phrase 'special package' because we have heard so many times 'special package', 'contents of special package'. I am not using this phrase, but massive efforts are being made to activate and revitalise the economy there. It has also been suggested that the Kashmiri youth should be deployed in the maximum number, as far as possible, in different sectors.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the statement and the reply of the hon. Minister, it is conceded that the process of infiltration and the attempt of infiltration are on the increase. It is further said, under a situation like this, "Our troops on the border are being pulled out, withdrawn and the reduction process is going on". I would specifically like to ask the hon. Minister whether this decision was a snap decision or it was a conscious decision. Whatever may be the background of the decision, will it be a prudent and a wise decision, in a situation like this, to withdraw the troops? That's one point. Secondly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one point.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The second part of my question is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one part.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It has appeared in the newspapers that in the process of reduction of troops there has been a controversy between the PMO and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Is it true that there was a controversy?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, there is no controversy, and I cannot enlighten the hon. Member of the non-existing controversy between PMO, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Secondly, the decision on the reduction of forces was taken conscientiously, keeping all factors in view. We do feel that this decision was a correct decision, and it has not at all adversely affected the situation there. Rather, a lot of goodwill has been created by this decision.

†मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। ... (व्यवधान)... सर, कोई ऐसा उपाय निकलना चाहिए कि पाकिस्तान से आने वाले आतंकवादी हमेशा के लिए हाथ उठा दें, तो वह हमारे लिए ज्यादा बेहतर होगा। ... (व्यवधान)... हाथ उठाने से मतलब सरेंडर कर देने से है। सर, मैं मंत्री महोदय जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि पाकिस्तानी हुकूमत से हर सतह पर बात हो रही है और हर तबके के लोग हिन्दुस्तान आ रहे हैं और हिन्दुस्तान से हर तबके के लोग पाकिस्तान जा रहे हैं। दूसरे, हुकूमत यह संकेत दे रही है कि हम अच्छे वातावरण में अमन और शांति स्थापित करेंगे। अभी मंत्री जी के बयान से यह मालूम हुआ कि आतंकवादियों की आमद में मुसलसल इजाफा कम हो रहा है, तो ऐसी सूरत में क्या पाकिस्तानी हुकूमत से यह मालूम किया गया है ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइये। मंत्री जी जवाब दे देंगे। ... (व्यवधान)... आपका क्वेश्चन हो गया। ... (व्यवधान)...

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: सर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमें यह मालूम है कि इतने आतंकवादी अड़े हैं और पाकिस्तान से ही वह हिन्दुस्तान में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं और पाकिस्तान ने दोस्ती का हाथ भी बढ़ाने का ऐलान किया है, मुशर्रफ साहब का अभी बयान आया है...।

श्री सभापति: आप मुशर्रफ साहब को छोड़िए।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या पाकिस्तानी हुकूमत को ... (व्यवधान)... अरे, मेरे भाई आप ही लोग बोल लीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप क्वेश्चन करिए। आप इधर देखिए।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: सर, मैं इतना-सा जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पाकिस्तानी हुकूमत पर हम असरअंदाज हुये हैं कि आतंकवादियों को रोकने के लिए वह भी हमारा सहयोग करे, ताकि हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान अच्छे माहौल से आगे बढ़ सकें?

مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی: بہت بہت شکریہ،... مداخلت... سر، کوئی ایسا آپاٹے نکلنا چاہئے کہ پاکستان سے آنے والے آنک وادی ہمیشہ کے لئے ہاتھ اٹھا دیں، تو وہ ہمارے لئے زیادہ بہتر ہوگا۔ مداخلت... ہاتھ اٹھانے سے مطلب سرینڈر کر دینے سے ہے۔ سر، میں سنتری مہودے جی سے یہ جانتا



چاہوں گا کہ پاکستانی حکومت سے ہر طرح پر بات ہو رہی ہے اور ہر طبقے کے لوگ ہندوستان آرہے ہیں اور ہندوستان سے ہر طبقے کے لوگ پاکستان جا رہے ہیں۔ دوسرے، حکومت یہ سکیت دے رہی ہے کہ ہم اچھے ماحول میں امن اور شanti قائم کریں گے۔ ابھی منتری جی کے بیان سے یہ معلوم ہوا کہ آنک وادیوں کی آمد میں مسلسل اضافہ کم ہو رہا ہے، یہ اسی صورت میں کیا پاکستانی حکومت سے یہ معلوم کیا گیا ہے..... مداخلت.....

شری سبجپتی : آپ بیٹھ جائیے۔ منتری جی جواب دے دیں گے۔..... مداخلت..... آپ کا سوال ہو گیا۔..... مداخلت.....

مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی : سر، میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ جب ہمیں یہ معلوم ہے کہ اتنے آنک وادی اڈے ہیں اور پاکستان سے ہی وہ ہندوستان میں داخل ہو رہے ہیں اور پاکستان نے دوستی کا ہاتھ بھی بڑھانے کا اعلان کیا ہے، مشرف صاحب کا ابھی بیان آیا ہے.....

شری سبجپتی : آپ مشرف صاحب کو چھوڑ دیجئے۔

مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی : سر، میرا سوال یہ ہے کہ کیا پاکستانی حکومت کو..... مداخلت..... ارے، میرے بھائی آپ ہی لوگ بول لیجئے..... مداخلت.....

شری سبجپتی : آپ سوال کریں۔ آپ باسرو کیجئے۔

مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی : سر، میں اتنا ماننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا پاکستانی حکومت پر ہم اثر انداز ہوئے ہیں کہ آنک وادیوں کو روکنے کے لئے وہ بھی ہتھیار استعمال کرے، تاکہ ہندوستان اور پاکستان اچھے ماحول سے آگے بڑھ سکیں؟

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter which the hon. Member, and everybody in this House is fully aware of that terrorism cannot just be switched on or switched off; nowhere has it been possible. Therefore, I would not like to take this opportunity to pass on the buck to anybody. As I mentioned, on the basis of certain information, there is no let up. There are infrastructures, which are supporting the infiltrators, and the infiltrators exist. But, at the same time, there is equally a fact that since November last year, the unilateral ceasefire which was declared by Pakistan is still continuing and that has created an atmosphere whereby

the process of beginning of the composite dialogue, which was assured of during the visit of the former Prime Minister in last January, has been taken up. This process is also going on. This is a very complex problem, and we cannot have a simplistic solution. We are looking into it.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि कुछ दिन पहले कश्मीर के कुछ बेरोजगारों का एक इंटरव्यू अखबार में छपा, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि उनको आर्मी के सामने प्रस्तुत किया गया। कुछ दिन उनको कहीं-कहीं पर रखकर, उनको रोजगार देने के नाम पर ले गये और अंततः आर्मी की बस में ले जाकर एक सरेंडर सभा में उनको दिखाया गया कि ये आतंकवादी हैं और ये सरेंडर कर रहे हैं। ऐसे 47 लोगों को सरेंडर करने का मामला दिखाया गया और उस पर उनको कुछ अल्योरमेंट देकर, उनके नाम पर इनाम भी घोषित किया गया और बहुत कुछ हुआ। 25 हजार रूपए करके उनको दिए गए ... (व्यवधान)... कितने सरेंडर हुए और क्या was it a fake surrender or a real surrender? क्या आपने इसके ऊपर इन्क्वायरी की? मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि ... (Interruptions)... Please.

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: अहलुवालिया जी जो बोल रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान)... क्वेश्चन का दूर का रिश्ता भी तो होना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Please Mr. Nilotpal. You are not my monitor. Sir, the second part of my question is, is there any provision to give employment in Army to those who were militants and have surrendered? There are some cases lying pending in the Supreme Court as PIL against some Commissioned Officers. Earlier, they were militants or terrorists and killed many people of our country. Then, they surrendered and became Commissioned Officers. Are you aware of this? Please inform the House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the question of deploying the surrendered terrorists in security forces is concerned, already there is a scheme and a special security forces under the Government of J&K. When Mr. Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister, then, it was institutionalised, and they are appointed. In addition to that I have already stated that six battalions.

SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH: The Government of India is also doing.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, the Government of India is also doing... (Interruptions) Yes, even in Assam we are having the surrendered ULFA which is known as SULFA.

SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH: One of the soldiers of CRPF, who belonged to ULFA, shot off those people recently. *(Interruptions)*. The Government should be careful when such things happen.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should not take too much that somebody sitting in safe haven of Bangladesh is claiming that I have 600 infiltrators and simply somebody's name is Deka and if Paresh Barua claims that he is our man, or, our agent let us not be agitated over it. Let us verify whether it is factually correct or not. The simple point which I am trying to drive at is that it has already been stated that we are going to raise six battalions. That is what I described as home and hearth and we deploy them. Somebody had challenged. I am not going to comment on the judiciary. It is for the judiciary to take a view on this.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What about the fake surrender?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There is no fake surrender *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चन नहीं है।

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: No, Sir. This is not a matter of question. In that interview he said... *(Interruptions)...*

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: फेक सरेंडर हुआ है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: फेक सरेंडर के बारे में क्या कहना चाहते हैं? They have used the name of Congress Party.

श्री बलबीर के. पुंज: एक पॉलिटिकल पार्टी के लोगों ने फेक सरेंडर करके पैसा बनाया है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: कांग्रेस पार्टी के नाम पर कहा गया कि कांग्रेस पार्टी उनको दिल्ली लाई।

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This question is only about the infiltration... *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already stated that there is no fake surrender as such. If the hon. Member has any information, I will check it up. What is there to be agitated on this? *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seats. Next Question.

**Bifurcation of Northern and Southern Region of PGCIL**

\*104. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Region and Southern Region of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) were bifurcated in two sub-regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for bifurcation;

(c) whether there is a similar plan to bifurcate other regions also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has reported that regions were bifurcated keeping in view the parameters like geographical spread including difficult terrain, size of transmission system and number of sub-stations.

PGCIL, based on these parameters, decided to bifurcate the Northern Region in 1991-92 and Southern Region in 2001. States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (including present day Uttaranchal), Delhi, and parts of Haryana were placed under Northern Region-I with regional headquarter at Faridabad (since shifted to Delhi in June, 2003). States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh and parts of Haryana were placed under Northern Region-II with regional headquarter at Jammu.

Southern Region-I consists of Andhra Pradesh and Parts of Karnataka. Southern Region II consists of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and parts of Karnataka. The headquarter of Southern Region-I is at Secunderabad and that of Southern Region-II is at Bangalore.

(c) and (d) In view of the parameters mentioned above, at present there is no plan to bifurcate other regions.