

Violation of ceasefire agreement by Pakistan

*58. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan had agreed on a ceasefire along the LoC and international border in November, 2003 as a confidence measure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistani troops have been indulging in unprovoked firing and ceasefire violations in the Uri, Poonch, Rajouri and Samba sectors of Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with Pakistani counterparts; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A ceasefire has been in force with Pakistan since the midnight of 25th November 2003 along the international border (IB), Line of Control (LoC) and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL).

(b) There have been 22 Ceasefire violations along the Line of Control Sector in Jammu and Kashmir during the current year. This includes violations in the Uri, Poonch and Rajouri Sectors.

(c) Government of India has taken up the issue of ceasefire violations with Pakistan consistently. All such violations of ceasefire are also taken up with Pakistan military authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotline, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Director Generals of Military Operations.

(d) While Pakistan military authorities have generally denied such incidents, during the DGsMO talks, they have given assurances for issuing necessary instructions to their troops in this regard.

Special dispensation to NRIs for investment under FDI scheme

*59. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are given a special dispensation without any condition, for investments in the country in the sector of townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction development projects under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) scheme;