

border in Jammu and Kashmir which came into effect on 25/26 November, 2003 has been violated by Pakistan from time to time. There were 93 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control Sector in Jammu and Kashmir in 2012, and this year till date there have been 22 ceasefire violations.

(c) One Indian soldier was killed and six were injured in cross LoC firing in the year 2012. Two Soldiers have been killed and two injured during 2013 to date.

(d) All Ceasefire Violations are retaliated firmly and appropriately by the Army through return of fire. Violations of Ceasefire are also taken up with the Pak military authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanisms of hotline, flag meetings as well as talks between the DGsMO. In addition, protests are also made through the diplomatic channels.

Construction of strategic rail and road networks along borders

343. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several strategic roads and railway lines are being constructed along the borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been several delays in these projects; if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has taken any step to address these delays, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 73 roads have been identified as strategic border roads, out of which 61 roads have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation with a total length of 3404.63 Km. 17 roads of length 612.51 Km have been completed, 25 roads are scheduled for completion by 2013 and rest 19 roads by 2016.

13 new Railway line projects covering a length of 965 Km are also under various stages of progress in North-East region, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, some road projects are delayed mainly due to delay in forest/wildlife clearance, restricted working period and adverse ground conditions.

Rail-line projects are delayed mainly due to delay in forest clearances, law and order problems, adverse weather and contract failures.

(e) Following steps have been taken to expedite the pace of road works:

- Fast tracking of forest and wild life clearance of projects
- Equipment bank was sanctioned for Rs. 100 crore in 2010-11 for creating exclusive reserve of equipment for strategic roads.
- Assured fund in the budget in the beginning of year.
- Enhanced allotment of funds for procurement of vehicle/equipment/plants.
- Enhanced air effort availability.
- More units (Projects/Task Forces) have been inducted to focus on strategic road construction.

To expedite completion of ongoing rail projects efforts are made to generate extra budgetary financing, declaring some projects as National Projects, revival of Capital Fund and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

(f) Does not arise.

Strike by employees of defence canteens

344. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is strike of employees working in defence canteens in all over the country from last 2-3 months;

(b) the total turnover of all defence canteens in all over India, during the last five years;

(c) the year-wise details of profit generated in above five years;

(d) the details of disbursement of this profit in each year;