

Ceasefire violations on Indo-Pak border

1438. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of violations of ceasefire on the Indo-Pak border is increasing, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the year- wise, number of violations reported during the last year and this year;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop ceasefire violations;
- (d) whether any discussions had been held with Pakistan, in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of Pakistan thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in J & K during last year and this year (15th December 2013) are as under:-

Sl.No.	Year	No. of CFVs
1.	2012	93
2.	2013	196

(c) to (e) All violation of ceasefire are taken up with Pakistan military authorities at the appropriate level through established mechanism of hotline messages, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the DGsMO of India and Pakistan.

There has been significant reduction in the incidents of CFVs post telephonic talks between the DGsMO on 25th and 29th October, 2013.

Capture of Chinese ship in Tuticorin, TN

1439. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Coast Guard has captured Chinese ship

in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu (TN) with huge lot of illegal weapons on 11th October, 2013;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this ship has been moving in Indian water territory since last 45 days without any permission from the concerned authority; and

(c) whether Government has collected all the information in this serious matters and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a vessel-'MV Seaman Guard Ohio' (Flag Sierra Leone) was interdicted and escorted by Indian Coast Guard to Tuticorin Port on 12th October, 2013 for investigation on the basis of intelligence inputs that the vessel was likely to be involved in illegal transactions of arms and ammunition. At Tuticorin, joint investigation was carried out on 12th and 13th October, 2013 by all the concerned agencies. The Tamil Nadu Police has registered a case against the crew and guards of the detained ship "Seaman Guard Ohio" under various provisions of Arms Act, 1959, Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel Prevention of Malpractices in Supply and Distribution Order, 1990. The case is under investigation with Tamil Nadu Police.

Shortage of fighter planes with IAF

1440. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is within an ace of dropping to critical levels, unless it could acquire new fighter jets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force has an authorized fighter squadron strength of 42 and it is currently operating at around 31 and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force needs more wings for its bucks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) Procurement of aircraft, including fighter planes, is an on-going process. Steps are taken to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF) keeping in view the