

(b) the details of the quantum of foreign debt block during corresponding months in 2013; and

(c) the reasons for increase or decrease in India's foreign debt block during the period under reference, if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) India's external debt statistics are disseminated on a quarterly basis with a lag of one quarter. Details of India's total external debt stock during 2nd and 3rd quarters of current fiscal are not available. India's external debt stock at end-September 2013 and end-December 2013 stood at US\$ 405.5 billion (22.3 per cent of GDP) and US\$ 427.6 billion (23.3 per cent of GDP), respectively.

India's external debt, as at end-June 2014, was placed at US\$ 450.1 billion (23.2 per cent of GDP) *vis-a-vis* US\$ 442.2 billion (23.4 per cent of GDP) at end-March 2014. The increase in absolute external debt was primarily on account of rise in commercial borrowings and NRI Deposits.

Long waiting period at Government hospitals in Delhi

*35. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting period for surgeries at the premier Government-run hospitals in Delhi like AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, is between six months to three years;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that this causes immense hardships to the patients and may even result in worsening of condition of the patient and also loss of life;

(c) whether Government recognises the fact that shortage of doctors and hospitals, to cater to the patient load in the city, besides inadequate infrastructure, contributes to this situation; and

(d) if so, the measures Government proposes to rectify the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The waiting time at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi varies from 0 to 5 years depending upon the condition of the patient. In Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, of the Central Government, there is a waiting list for indoor elective patients varying from 0 to 3 years. In Dr. Ram Manohar

Lohia Hospital, New Delhi of the Central Government, the waiting time varies from a couple of months to 2 years. In Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospital, New Delhi, of the Central Government, the waiting time varies from 3 to 4 months in non-emergencies surgeries.

(c) and (d) State of the art infrastructure and equipment are available in different patient care and supportive areas of AIIMS, New Delhi, to provide holistic care to the patients coming to the Institute. In fact, AIIMS New Delhi handles patient load much beyond its capacity. For reducing the waiting time, new AIIMS have been set up in Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh. Further, the number of doctors at different hospitals has increased and infrastructure facilities have also been enhanced.

Indians killed in cross-border firing

†*36. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens and soldiers killed in cross-border firing from Pakistan during the last three years till date; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Details of security forces personnel martyred in cross-border firing and other tactical incidents and civilians killed along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and current year are as under:

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of security personnel martyred	5	5	12	5 (till 20th November)
Number of civilians killed	-	4	-	13 (till 31st October)

(b) Appropriate retaliation to the ceasefire violations, as required, has been carried out by Indian Army / BSF. In addition, all violations of ceasefire are taken up with Pakistan military authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotlines, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Directorate Generals of Military Operations of the two countries. BSF, too, holds talks at various levels with its counterpart viz. Pakistan Rangers.

Diplomatically, India has repeatedly emphasized, including at the highest level, the need for Pakistan to uphold the sanctity of the Line of Control (LC) and abide by the ceasefire commitment of 2003 along the International Border and LC.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.