

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Government has seen such reports that subsequent to latest reforms in China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), China has established the PLA Strategic Support Force which is aimed at protecting China's Cyber and Space domains.

(b) India is a member of United Nations Committee on the peaceful use of Outer Space (COPUOS) from 1959 and maintains its stand on peaceful use of Outer Space.

Rehabilitation and rescue measures of Siachen Glacier

1160. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed any new rehabilitation and rescue measures in the Siachen Glacier after the sad incident of avalanche where nine jawans were martyred in the first week of February this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) The posts in Siachen Glacier are sited after due mapping so as to ensure their safety from avalanche threat. This is reviewed on a regular basis.

Keeping in view the advances in technology, efforts are made to continuously upgrade the equipment for avalanche rescue, mobility and communication to enhance capability for avalanche rescue and survival in glaciated areas.

Security at airbases

†1161. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airforce does not have sufficient means of safety for the safety of its airbase;

(b) the number of airbases where sensor and electronic fencing is available;

(c) whether the Airforce is not trained like the Army to tackle the situation such as terrorist attack; and

(d) the measures for safeguarding items of strategic importance in the situation of terrorist?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Adequate measures are in place to ensure safety and security of the air bases.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.