

(d) LCA Tejas shall be an important part of IAF's fighter aircraft inventory filling up the lightweight category of fighters and shall be effectively used for air defence and for battlefield air strikes.

Construction of strategic railway lines

179. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal for construction of railway lines along China border as a strategic line, particularly Missamari-Tenga-Tawang; Bilaspur-Manali-Leh; Pasighat-Tezu-Rupai; and North Lakhimpur-Bame (Along)-Silapathar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for construction and undertaking Final Location Survey (FLS) of following railway lines along the India-China border:

(i) Missamari (Bhalukpong)-Tenga-Tawang;

(ii) Bilaspur-Mandi-Manali-Leh;

(iii) Pasighat-Parasuramkund-Rupai; and

(iv) North Lakhimpur-Bame (Along)-Silapathar.

Ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops

180. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violation of ceasefire by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir has continued in the recent past;

(b) if so, how many times the ceasefire was violated by Pakistani troops during the last four months with details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by our troops and Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Details of ceasefire violations along Indo-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) are given below: