

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Chinese border cannot be approached by the Indian Army; and

(c) if so, the details of such areas and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of LAC.

Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including Border Personnel Meetings, Flag Meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, as well as through diplomatic channels.

The Government consistently maintains that peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas is an important pre-requisite for the smooth development of bilateral relations.

Military power ranking of India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India stands at 10th rank as regards military power, as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the status of military power of India in comparison to the developed and neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) There is no such internationally accepted institutional mechanism to rank the nations based on the size and shape of their armed forces. However, India has robust strength of the armed forces, to safeguard the borders and protect the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the Nation.

Chinese military activity in Pakistan

966. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.