

Approach to National Security

1779. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report appeared in the Indian Express dated 2nd November, 2000 captioned "Defence expert accuses PMO of casual attitude to Security";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the long term security issues are being put on the back burner as the National Security Council constituted two years ago has not met even once;

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government is aware of the views of Shri K. Subrahmanyam on various issues relating to national security management, that have appeared in the media in the recent past. Some of these views have also been included in the Kargil Review Committee Report. The Government has taken note of the views of Shri K. Subrahmanyam on all the issues.

(b) and (c) The issues concerning National Security continue to be accorded top most priority at the highest levels of the Government. Notwithstanding the fact that the National Security Council and its sub-structures have been in existence only for less than two years, useful inputs concerning National Security have been provided by them to the Government. It is noteworthy that a Group of Ministers (GoM) has already been set up by the Government on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. Keeping in view the wide scope of the terms of reference of the Group of Ministers and in accordance with its mandate, the GoM appointed four Task Forces, on each in the area of intelligence apparatus, internal security, border management and defence management. These Task Forces have since submitted their reports to the GoM and the GoM is expected to formulate a set of proposals for improving the national security system.

Official history of 1965 war with Pakistan

1780. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no official history of the 1965 war with Pakistan;