

[4 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no relation between the redeployment of the Armed Forces and the decrease in the terrorists activities. The decision on strategic redeployment of the Armed Forces does not envisage any lowering of the vigil on the Line of Control and of Counter Insurgency Grid in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Joint INDO-US Navy Patrols in Malacca Straits**

1527. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy is carrying out patrols with the US Navy in Malacca Straits;

(b) if so, the objective of this patrolling;

(c) when was this patrolling started and for how long it is likely to continue; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Civil and Military Liaison Conference at AOC Centre, Hyderabad**

1528. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Civil and Military Liaison Conference was held at AOC Centre, Hyderabad;

(b) whether a suggestion was made there that the representatives of the Army and Civil Officers at the district level should meet twice a year to sort out problems; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) According to the reports received from Army Headquarters, a

Civil Military Liaison conference, 2002 was held at Hyderabad on 17th October, 2002 under the aegis of Head Quarters Andhra Sub Area wherein it was suggested that interaction between the Army and civil authorities be conducted more often.

**Increase of annual service charges for Secunderabad  
Cantonment Board**

1529. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased sufficiently the annual service charges for Secunderabad cantonment Board to meet the heavy demand of three lakhs of civilian population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Service Charges are claimed by Cantonment Boards on the value of defence land as per latest Standard Table of Rents and value of buildings thereon and not on the financial requirement or demand of civilian population. Hence, the question of increase in the annual service charges does not arise.

**Introduction of force-multipliers in IAF**

1530. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF is introducing force-multipliers to increase its firepower and effectiveness; and

(b) if so, the details of the system and the cost of this modernization programme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Modernisation of Indian Air Force is a continuous process. To enhance the operational effectiveness, force-multipliers like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Flight Refuelling Aircraft etc. are being inducted within the budgetary allocations. It would not be in the national interest to disclose any further details.