

(b) whether Government have conducted an enquiry into this incident;

(c) if so, the conclusions of the enquiry;

(d) whether India has lodged any protest to Pakistan in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Court of Inquiry was ordered and based on the findings of the court of Inquiry suitable administrative action has already been taken.

(d) and (e) So far India has not lodged any protest in this case.

Shelling by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Rajouri districts

5128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thirty-three forward Indian posts along the International Border and Line of Control were targeted by Pakistani troops on March 27, 2002 who resorted to firing and shelling in Jammu and Rajouri districts;

(b) if so, what were the total loss and damage of properties on the Indian side;

(c) the reasons for Pakistani firing and shelling of these posts; and

(d) what action has been taken by India against shelling of Pakistani troops on these borders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The exchange of fire between Pakistan and Indian troops deployed along the Line of Control and International Border of Jammu & Kashmir is a regular phenomenon. Pakistan troops resort to firing to abet infiltration and inflict casualties on Indian troops.

[15 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

The firing from Pakistan side on 27th March, 2002 which was not in excess of normal trend, was effectively retaliated by the Indian troops, without suffering any casualty or damage.

Defence deals with Russia

5129. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Minister visited Russia during the month of April, 2002 and had long discussions with the Russian authorities over defence deals;

(b) if so, whether the agreements on all the defence deals with Russia have been signed; and

(c) if so, to what extent Russia has agreed to assist India in defence projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (c) Raksha Mantri paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 10—13 April, 2002 at the invitation of Defence Minister of the Russian Federation and held discussions with the Russian side on defence Cooperation between the two countries. No agreement was signed during this visit.

Indo US Joint Military Exercises

5130. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and United States have decided to hold joint military exercises in Alaska during the month of April-May, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the US Army whose winter warfare school is based in Alaska is keen to share with the Indian Army its special expertise in battling in icy conditions;