

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The perceived danger from space debris arises mainly on account of a possible risk of collision between operating space systems and debris. The steps that are needed to tackle the problem of space debris are international in scope. India has been actively pursuing the subject at the United Nations committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

(c) and (d) The newspaper report pertains to a satellite system being established by a foreign agency. Preventive measures to safeguard the satellite system would have to be taken by them.

Gauge Conversion

2566. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the inordinate delay for taking up the Gauge conversion of Nuapada-Gunpur and Rupsa-Bangriposi lines in Orissa; and

(b) the time by which these lines are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b) For Rupsa-Bangriposi Gauge conversion project, the work is included in the budget for 95-96 and necessary clearances are being obtained. The work would be started as soon as these clearances are received. For Nuapada-Gunupur Gauge conversion, survey has been taken up and report is expected by 31.03. 96. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Census and Normalcy in J & K

2567. DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law and Order situation in Jammu and Kashmir is normal;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether census has been undertaken in this State:

(d) if so, the details of last two census; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing large scale terrorist violence actively aided, abetted and fuelled from across the border. A variety of measures have been taken to contain militancy and for restoration of peace and normalcy in Kashmir. These *inter-alia* include intensification of vigilance, sustained pressure and operations against the terrorists by the security forces; focussed steps to accelerate economic and development activities and creation of additional employment opportunities for the youth; special attention and efforts to reactivate the local administration, bringing it closer to the people and strengthening their confidence in it; increased transparency and other measures like release of detainees etc. to relieve tension among the people and boost their confidence; and, efforts to encourage the political forces and elements to step up their activities in the State. All these efforts have had a definite positive impact and there are boon significant improvement in the overall security situation and environment, even though attempts continue to be made by Pakistan and its surrogate terrorist groups to keep up violence in the State. The Government will continue to pursue the above efforts intensively and work towards the restoration of peace and the democratic institutions in the State at the earliest.

(c) to (e) Census in the country is conducted once in 10 years. The last Census in J & K was conducted in 1981. The 1991 census could not be held due to the disturbed conditions prevailing at that time in the State. However, the projected population of J&K as on 1.3.1991 made by the Standing Committee of Experts on population projections (Oct. 1989) and the population as per the Census undertaken in 1971 and 1981 are given below. This does not include the population of the area under the unlawful occupation of Pakistan and China.

Total Population in J& K

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1971	4,616,632	2,458,315	2,158,317
1981	5,987,389	3,164,660	2,822,729
1991	7,718,700	4,014,100	3,704,600

Subsidiaries Housing Development Corporation

2568. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing Development Corporation is

setting up two subsidiaries one for infrastructure development and the other for providing consultancy services particularly in the field of housing finance within India and abroad;

(b) if so, the main objectives of these two subsidiaries;

(c) the total loan provided to the individuals or to the States in constructing the houses especially in rural areas; and

(d) the target for financial assistance earmarked for 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) and (b) There is no Corporation named 'Housing Development Corporation' under the administrative control of the Central Government. However, there is one housing finance corporation named 'Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)' but there is no decision of the Government for setting up of any subsidiary of the Company.

(c) HUDCO does not provide any financial assistance to individuals directly. The financial assistance is provided to State Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Cooperative Societies, Improvement Trusts, Non-Governmental Organisations, etc. HUDCO since inception and as on 31.10.1995, has sanctioned 10051 schemes with a loan component of Rs. 7235.65 crores for various housing projects. These projects, on completion, would enable construction/upgradation of 58,02,738 dwelling units and development of 3,42,233 plots. Out of this, 1663 schemes with loan amount of Rs. 1247.49 crores for construction of 29,44,883 dwelling units are for rural areas.

(d) As per HUDCO's annual loan allocation, an amount of Rs. 1185 crores has been earmarked for loan sanctions during 1995-96 for various housing projects.

[Translation]

Light Combat Aircraft

2569. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for developing the Naval proto type of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Project definition phase (PDP) to examine the Naval requirements and to identify design modification and appropriate technologies for Naval Variant of LCA has been undertaken. This is expected to be completed by end 1996. Based on results of this study, detailed design and development of Naval variant of LC would be taken up.

(c) The estimate of expenditure on development of Naval variant of LCA would emerge from PDP studies.

'ASCON' System

2570. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'ASCON System' has been introduced in the Army;

(b) if so, the name of the sector in which this system is proposed to be introduced first;

(c) whether the said system is fully automatic and indigenously;

(d) the time taken in developing this system; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on its development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (e) Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) has been introduced in the Army. It covers Northern and Western Sectors. The system is fully automated and indigenously developed. It took nearly four years to develop the system. The total expenditure incurred has been approximately Rs. 121 crores.

[English]

Seismic Observatories

2571. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Seismic observatories functioning in the country as on June 30, 1995;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up some more observatories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?