

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:774  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000  
FORMULATION OF EFFECTIVE DEFENCE POLICY  
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**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of defence committees have been constituted since Independence but no concrete measures are reported to have been taken to deal with defence problems;
- (b) if so, the factors attributed thereto;
- (c) the reasons for delay in procuring warfare equipments and other defence items; and
- (d) the steps being taken to formulate an effective defence policy?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): A number of Committees dealing with defence related activities have been constituted by the Government of India. The Ministry obtains policy directions of the Government on all Defence and security related matters and communicates them to the Service Hqrs, Inter-Service Organizations, Production Establishments and Research and Development Organisations concerned for implementation.

(c) Government is fully aware of the needs of the country's Defence preparedness and all steps are being taken to procure warfare equipments and other Defence items well in time. The Government have considered the comments made in certain quarters that Defence Procurement Procedures are coming in the way of time bound acquisition by the Armed Forces. In order to further streamline the procedures, a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Vice Chief of Army Staff to examine the existing Defence Procurement Procedures in their entirety with a view to suggest specific measures for speedier processing of procurement cases.

(d) Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) on 17th April 2000, consisting of Home Minister, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister to 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. The GOM has set up four Task Forces, one each in the areas of intelligence apparatus, internal security, border management and defence management. These Task Forces are expected to submit their reports within a period of three months from the date of their constitution. After the Task Forces have rendered their reports, the same will be considered by the GOM. The GOM is expected to submit its report to Government in a period of six months from the date of its constitution. Further, various sub-structures of National Security Council also look into different policy issues with a view to formulate appropriate recommendations.