

*Demands for grants (General) 1986-87 in respect of the Ministry of Energy voted
by Lok Sabha.*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant vote by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3		4	
MINISTRY OF ENERGY					
23.	Department of Coal	24,76,37,000	2,36,63,84,000	1,23,81,87,000	10,33,24,18,000
24.	Department of Power	36,69,55,000	2,45,81,00,000	1,83,82,74,000	12,22,25,00,000
25.	Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	15,95,89,000	58,33,000	79,79,46,000	3,91,67,000

(ii) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 17 to 22 relating to the Ministry of Defence for which six hours have been allotted.

The Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they so desire, move their cut motions, and slips to the Table within fifteen minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any mem-

ber finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table without delay.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 17 to 22.”

*Demands for Grants (General) 1986-87 in respect of Ministry of Defence submitted
in the vote of the House*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
1	2	3		4	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE					
17.	Ministry of Defence	89,50,51,000	23,72,04,000	4,43,27,55,000	1,18,60,21,000
18.	Defence Pensions	91,74,88,000	...	4,58,74,37,000	...
19.	Defence Services—Army	9,10,96,20,000	...	45,54,81,02,000	...
20.	Defence Services—Navy	1,13,35,00,000	...	5,66,75,00,000	...
21.	Defence Services—Air Force	3,11,23,08,000	...	15,56,15,42,000	...
22.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	...	1,82,08,00,000	...	9,10,40,00,000

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ayyapu Reddy may begin.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : There has been a noticeable change so far as the Ministry of Defence is concerned. The change has been very significant. Now the Ministry has come directly under the Prime Minister. Generally, this is taken as a sign that the Government is very serious with regard to the performance of the Ministry of Defence. But, unfortunately today the Prime Minister is not here to hear or to note

or to participate in the debate regarding Defence.

In one way it was a promotion for the Defence Ministry but it appears to be a demotion so far as the House is concerned, because the Prime Minister is absent when the Demand is moved.

Sir, out of every rupee of the Union Budget only fourteen paise is the share of the Defence, and 22 paise is for development, or the development Plan of the Cen-

[Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy]

tral Government. Nearly, two-thirds of our development plan is allotted for Defence. For a developing country like India this certainly appears to be on the high side. But Defence and Development have to go together because Development without Defence will be vulnerable and Defence without Development will be useless. So, even though we may wish that we must spend more on Development and less on Defence, for a long time to come in the existing global scenario, we may not be in a position to reduce our Defence allocations. Most probably, our Defence allocations have to go up from year to year.

Sir, we do see that a balance has been struck and we hope that this balance of fourteen paise out of the rupee of the total budget must be changed to Defence and within these parameters we must try to achieve the best self-sufficiency so far as national security is concerned. Our anxiety must be to see that every paisa allocated to the Defence is carefully planned and spent and results in achieving of strengthening the security.

I shall begin with the annual report with regard to the national security environment. This year's annual report is an improvement over last year's in some respects. The fact that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the exit of Iran out of America's sphere of influence resulted in Pakistan being adopted as the favourite protege of America, has been noted. The fact that China and Pakistan are collaborating and helping each other and that probably China is helping Pakistan to develop its nuclear capability and that there has been free flow of arms of all sophisticated weaponry into Pakistan by America, has also been noted. The fact that there is a revolutionary change in the modern weaponry system leading to star war and new type of space weapons outdating the existing conventional weapons has also been noted. Last but not the least, the fact that armed subversion is encouraged by external agencies to destabilise the security of India has also been noted. These are realistic approaches so far as the national security environment is concerned.

One factor which has also been noted is that the relationship between China and Russia is improving and that most probably in three or four years their relationship may become normal. We do welcome it; we do not want it to be otherwise. But it has been noted very realistically that China will be in a position to deploy more divisions from the Sino-Soviet border to the Tibetan border and that would also add to our burden.

Having said this, let us just have a look at the relative strength of the Army. The strength of Army in China is 40 lakhs. Nearly four lakh of people are in the Air Force and 33.5 lakhs are in the Navy with pro-rata equipment. Pakistan though small has got half of our strength. It has got nearly 4.5 lakh of Army with better equipment, better armoury and artillery. We may say now what exactly must have been our defence strategy. We are still going on in conventional weaponry. Probably we want to try to improve the conventional weaponry.

With regard to nuclear capability and acquiring nuclear deterrent, nothing has been said in the report. Though our Prime Minister has been saying that our options are open; even that factor has not been stated in our report. The Hamletian dilemma 'to be or not to be' has to be resolved. In my humble opinion, our options have become narrower and narrower. While we have stoutly defended our opting out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and we have criticise vertical proliferation of the super-powers who want to prohibit and prevent horizontal proliferation, we have not yet taken a decision with regard to acquisition of nuclear capability. We have been really saying that we have kept our options open. My humble submission is, a time has come when we have to close our options, a time has come when we have to say we will certainly acquire a nuclear deterrent. Like Miller on the Dee' we may say that. "I envy nobody and nobody envies me. I sing like a lark and steep like a log." But it will be only an unrealistic dream. The reality today is that there is no other alternative for a country like India except to go in for a nuclear deterrent. This debate has been going on in this country and now a consensus has developed that we have no other option. So long as we are going to have an army, we

must give them the best weaponry. I do not think this proposition will be challenged or doubted by any person. That is to say, even taking into consideration the cost benefit ratio, instead of spending huge crores of rupees on conventional weapons, it would be better to acquire a nuclear deterrent and to develop a nuclear deterrent. I, therefore, say that we have to develop a nuclear deterrent and we need not be apologetic about it. However repellent the idea may be, however emotional we may be against it, however much it may appear to compromise our position as a nation which has been advocating nuclear disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons, it is but inevitable that we have to take a realistic view of the present scenario and make an assessment of our defence strategy that we have to go in for a nuclear deterrent and the sooner, the better. Let there be no confusion, let there be no vacillation, let there be no doubts about it and we need not be apologetic on this issue to any person in the world.

Coming to the changes that have taken place in the world with regard to the armament race, today battles are fought not on battle-fields but actually in defence laboratories and research centres. The race for improving the dirtiest weapons on the one side and the race to counter these deadly weapons on the other side, is going on. Billions of dollars are being spent in the NATO countries where one out of every six scientists is engaged only in defence research and armament factories. Today it has been very revealing. In today's *Indian Express*, there is an article regarding the amount which Russia is spending on arms. To put the record straight, it is better that I may be permitted to read a few paras from this article to show the importance of research and development so far as the weaponry system is concerned. It says :

"The pentagon report estimates that by 1990 the Soviet Union may be able to test a prototype particle beam weapon which can disrupt the electronics of satellites. A weapon designed to destroy satellites could follow and one capable of physically destroying missile boosters or warheads could be developed a few years later.

The Soviet Union also has a variety of research programmes in kinetic energy weapons. These are a stream of heavy metal particles such as tungsten or molybdenum that can be shot out of a 'gun' at five kilometres per second in air and over 60 kilometres per second in space. Long-range space-based kinetic energy systems of defence against ballistic missiles can be developed by the late 1990s. But in a shorter time it could develop a short-range space-based system for space station defence or for a close-in attack by a manoeuvring satellite."

This article clearly gives out what amount of research is going on in the nuclear weapons and, as a matter of fact, even to understand the names the technology, the methodology and, the purpose of these weapons, is breath-taking and mind-boggling. As a matter of fact, it has been estimated that the Soviet Union has got a corps of 9 lakhs engineers and 10,000 scientists working in Defence laboratories and 20 per cent of their Defence outlay goes on Defence Research. Now, in the very same article it is stated that even more than 300 billion dollars are being earmarked for Star War Strategy. Now, having regard to the global phenomena, what is the outlay we are having on Defence Research? Sir, last year, it was Rs. 300 crores. It is just 3 per cent of our outlay. This year, I am told, it is about Rs. 380 crores or Rs. 350 crores. In 1965 we started the Department of Defence Supplies, with the object of indigenising our defence equipments, armoury, artillery and infra-structure. 20 years have elapsed. But the achievement has been very, very negligible and insignificant. We have been able to achieve not even 50 per cent of indigenisation. Where is the defect, I am asking. Don't we have scientists of calibre? Don't we have technologists of calibre? Sir, 60 per cent of our students turning out of IITs are going to foreign countries though we have been complaining of 'brain drain'. They are going to foreign countries and we are expecting them to return back, but they are not returning back. Do we lack private industrial enterprise? Certainly not. Our people are capable of doing anything. Do we lack hard-working workmen? Do we lack intelligent workmen? Certainly not. Our worker

[Shri E. Ayapu Reddy]

is as efficient and capable, as intelligent as any other worker either in Japan or in America or Russia. If that is so, having all these requisites, manpower, technical knowledge, scientific knowledge and all those things, why is it that we are failing to achieve the indigenisation, the objective with which we set up this system in 1965? Kindly review this entire thing. As a matter of fact, there has been a review of the functioning of DDS in a report submitted by the Chartered Accountants in 1982-83. Therefore, kindly review this.

So far as Defence Research Organisation is concerned, I must congratulate them, because, they have done really good work. As a matter of fact, their achievement in Aeronautics, armoury, combat vehicles and all those things have been narrated and categorised in this report. I do not want to repeat it. There is the MBT (Main Battle Tank). There is the LAT (Light Combat Aircraft). These two things we have been striving to get. Last year itself we named our MBT, Arjun. It has to undergo test for 10,000 hours. It has undergone test for 5,000 hours. 5,000 hours test still remains. I hope we will be able to put an indigenised engine in our MBT and even with regard to our Light Combat Aircraft, I hope, we will be able to achieve it within 2 or 3 years.

With regard to Missiles, rockets and other matters, our young scientists working in the Research Development have done very well. I take this opportunity to congratulate them. I had occasion to see some of these missiles which they are developing. They have done very well and they do require encouragement. We may put in more investment if it is necessary so far as this aspect is concerned.

16.00 hrs

Sir, with regard to the Army I may congratulate our Defence for preventing intrusion into the Siachen Glacier. I myself have seen the high altitude and I know under what difficult climatic conditions they have to work. But here, again we have to do research and give them latest equipment

which will be suitable to those climatic conditions.

With regard to the Navy last time also I took the stand that we have to improve or rather expand our Navy quite a lot. In fact, the submarines which are going to be produced are the submarines to the production of which greater impetus must be given because the Indian Ocean is clustered with all sorts of ships, frigates and surveillance weapons and submarines from the super powers. It is, therefore, essential that in order to safeguard our coast of nearly 7,000 kilometres, we must have a good Navy. On this aspect I would like to say that regarding the debate that has been going on with regard to the acquisition of aircraft carrier service, I may submit that unfortunately the Defence Ministry has not been fair to this House. Why is it that there is no mention about the acquisition of Hermes at all in the Annual Report? Have we to read and learn about it only through newspapers even after this debate has begun or just before the debate has begun? Nobody has informed us as to what is the attitude of the Government with regard to the acquisition of this aircraft carrier, Hermes. We are hearing alarming reports one side pleading that Hermes must be acquired and it is the best proposition so far as this concerned because it is coming for a throw-away price. As a matter of fact, a report in the *Indian Express* today says that it costs about Rs. 100 crores, it is coming at a throw-away price and American people are preventing this acquisition by India. That is what has been pleaded. On Friday the *Hindu* wrote about the *pros* and *cons* of acquiring Hermes. They say it costs about Rs. 500 crores. There is a vast difference. So far as the *Indian Express* is concerned, it says about Rs. 100 crores or so; so far as the *Hindu* is concerned it says Rs. 500 crores, and in times of emergency it is a hitting duck. Therefore it is of no use. Therefore, this *pros* and *cons* debate is going on, we do not know which side is correct. I hope the Ministry will make it clear and clarify the position so far as acquisition of Hermes is concerned. But even otherwise it is essential to strengthen the Navy and more investment is necessary on the Navy and we have to go in for construction of our own type of frigates and surveillance vessels. I am very happy that they have been able to

do it and they have been able to release INS 'GANGA' and other frigates and surveillance vessels.

With regard to aircraft, I am very unhappy about the loss of the two IAF aircraft. We do not know what has happened to them. We expected the Ministry to come forward with a statement with regard to the loss of these two planes (*Interruptions*). I mean, the reasons or the causes for...

AN HON. MEMBER : They are inquiring into it.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : They do not know.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Such mishaps must not at all happen in the future and so far as purchases are concerned, with the MiGs which we are having and the Jaguars and the development which we are trying to achieve so far as this is concerned, I think we will become self-sufficient and we will be in a position not to purchase foreign aircraft within a few years. Everybody knows that there is a lot of vested interests so far as armaments are concerned. The moment some new weaponry is purchased by Pakistan, it is not necessary for us to run and purchase counter weapons from some NATO countries or some other countries. This is not desirable at all. We have to stand on our own legs. The impetus must be given to our own indigenous armament factories and development of our own weapons and our own armoury and artillery.

16.05 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

Last but not the least, I only submit that so far as the Defence laboratories at Hyderabad are concerned, the State Government has offered any amount of facility for their expansion, for testing the missiles and rockets. Therefore, further expansion is necessary. Naturally, the State Government is prepared to give all the facilities to the very good defence laboratory which is there at Hyderabad, which will get soon expanded.

Similarly so far as ordnance factory is concerned, one was located at Medak. But the engine part was taken away. I hope, the

engine part will also be located at Medak. The Andhra Pradesh State has offered two sites at Karimnagar and Srisaillam and all other facilities for the location of the ordnance factory. I would say only this much so far as ordnance factory is concerned. The report given by the Comptroller and Auditor General goes against it. I would appeal to OFB i.e. Ordnance Factory Board to look into this matter. If you were only say that the ordnance factories have been spending Rs. 26 crores, Rs. 30 crores, Rs. 35 crores as over-time, it is abnormal. The Public Accounts Committee has stated that the over-time should be related to production. When it comes to the production, it has fallen far short of targetted thing. I do not want to repeat the figures. The figures are there. Alarmingly, targets which were expected to be fulfilled have fallen short of more than 50 per cent or 40 per cent. These things have to be looked into.

Store losses have been Rs.10 crores. In 1982-83, it was Rs. 5 crores. Last year, it was Rs. 10 crores. Store losses have been mounting up and your store-keeping has not been up-to-date. You have to modernise the store-keeping, computerise the store-keeping. Even the Naval Store at Bombay which has a sprawling area of 100 acres of land is very loosely organised. A good dynamic organisation with regard to store-keeping is necessary. Modernising and computerisation of all these stores is necessary. Wastages and losses in all these stores are enormous and abnormal. These things must be stopped.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-mugao) : Mr. Chairman, I have heard with great interest and attention, the excellent speech made by our colleague on the other side, Mr. Ayyapu Reddy. However, I crave your permission to attempt to correct some of his mis-statements and misconceptions which have now and the cropped up into his presentation. The previous speaker began by saying that we are sending 1/3rd of the expenditure on defence compared to development, which is 2/3rds.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : I said, 22 paise on development; 14 paise on Defence. That is 2/3rds of the development. That is all, I said.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : This is the statement which, I think, needs correction, and where I think, I must join issue with the previous speaker.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : That is the diagram given to us in the Budget-at-a-glance.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I will come to that. To begin with, in our defence development, we have no expansionist ambition. The purpose of our defence development is not to acquire anybody's territory. The purpose of our defence effort is solely, entirely and fundamentally to protect the integrity of this country, to protect the people of this country so that the people of this country can develop and development can take place in peace and security. That is the purpose of our defence efforts and if this is kept in mind and once this is kept in mind—the precedent of this House and this has been throughout since the constitution of this Lok Sabha—there is no question in Parliament of bargaining on how much money should be given to the Government for defence purpose. The defence interests are paramount and there is no *quid pro quo* involved and, therefore, there is no question of whether we are spending more or less. This being the fundamentals of the very security and peace and prosperity of our nation. That is apart from the fundamentals. May I add this? If you look at the countries around us, if you look at the countries in general across the world, our defence expenditure as compared to the gross national product, is one of the lowest in the world. We are spending about 4 per cent of our GNP while the United States is spending around 7 per cent, the Soviet Union is spending around same amount, the United Kingdom around 7 per cent again while Pakistan itself, our neighbour, is spending more than us as a percentage of GNP, apart from substantial aid that it gets for defence purposes. While we cannot and we have not in this House grugged any money for the Defence Ministry and it is cutting across our party lines, it is undoubtedly correct, this point must be made, that every money that we spend for defence expenditure, is the money of the people of this country. It is not crores of rupees, every single rupee is the money of the man

in this country who has limited resources. In this context, we must see that while we do not grudge any money to the Ministry, every single rupee, every single paisa, is spent in the best possible manner, in the most cost effective manner.

I will go in a moment to agree with my colleague on the need to indigenise our production. I will definitely join him and support him and I am sure all of us are one with me in this, that if we can afford and we can find ways and means of sending our money to foreign countries and if we find ways and means and surely we can because we have the talent, of spending crores of rupees inside our country in making our own armaments for the security of our country, undoubtedly we must. A misconception has come here. It is a misconception which, along with this, is bound to permeate this debate because the difficulty of just not having sufficient materials on which to work. As far as defence is concerned, we are suffering from almost fear of over-classification and over-security. No information is available. It is not merely the man at large, even a Member of Parliament finds it difficult. We find it difficult to get materials and if we want to speak in this House, a Member of Parliament has to go round and collect material from "The Hindu" and from "The Indian Express" or any other newspaper. It is not a question with me alone.

It is a question of Members of Parliament generally and the reason is over-classification and over-security which has been permeating our entire approach to this matter for a very long time. I was just told yesterday that the Historical Section of the Defence Ministry prepared the history of the Kashmir conflict. Kashmir conflict took place in 1948. The history is prepared by the Defence Ministry through its Historical Section and was completed about ten years ago. Up to this date, this document which concerns events of 1948 and which is important, has not been published. Ten years have passed after the completion of this book which, in fact relates to events in 1948 and ten years have passed upon the completion of this book made by a Section of the Defence Ministry itself and, up to this moment apparently the Defence Ministry has not given permission to publish this history of events

of 1948 made by itself. This is just an example... (Interruptions) There are many other things.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No running commentary please.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I have been reading this excellent document which the Defence Ministry has prepared. As I go on this point, one finds for instance, at p. 124, this paragraph :

"The steps initiated by the Institute focus increasing attention on technological aspects of national and international security issues which had their impact"

This resulted, and this I underline and emphasise, in the first professional study of air power in modern warfare. Now we have been with an aircraft industry and military aircraft power for more than 25 years. After 25 years, for the first time, we have an academic document on aircraft air power in military warfare. It is not enough to have good scientists. It is not enough to have technologies of the highest of the world level in fact. It is necessary that academic studies must go on not merely in the closed circles of the Defence Ministry. Academic studies must go on percolating to the people of this country. It has been said that, I suppose it was Winston Churchill who said, "war is a very serious matter to be left to the Generals alone". With all respect for the Generals, they have done extremely good work throughout. They are really islands of excellence. Our Defence forces are islands of excellence. It is not enough to have islands of excellence. Defence forces are nothing unless they are backed by the indomitable will of the people of a country. People have to be involved directly in the Defence forces, as I have said in a different context, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. It should be a people's Army, a people's Navy and a people's Air Force in the sense that people at large, the population at large, must fully be involved, fully committed to the Defence effort. And this commitment cannot undoubtedly be expected unless there is an awareness of the issues; knowledge of what are the threats that face us and what are the ways in which

our Government is trying to counter this threat. This knowledge can come only if there are studies, if there is dissemination of knowledge, if we do not suffer from this, as I have said puerile fears of over acquisition and over secrecy.

Going to the security environment, mention has been made that the question of security environment is definitely a paramount question, very important question. But if you look at the debates of Lok Sabha you will find that it has been sufficiently discussed in these debates on the Defence Ministry, the question of the strategic environment and the security environment and sometimes to the detriment of other issues.

I would like to concentrate on some of the other issues which, I am afraid, may get the attention they deserve. But may I say here, in this question of security environment, the situation in which countries of the world are, the situation which is created and imposed upon us by this world wide confrontation between the two super powers. We were happy, we had a lot of hope that after a long time, the leaders of both the Soviet Union and the U.S.A....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Vakkom Purushothaman) : It is not fair to make such unwanted comments. If you have got any doubt, you stand up and ask. Why do you make running comments ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : It is their habit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : When we were particularly happy in this country, when President Reagan did go on record saying "now conflicts cannot be settled by war, difference of opinion, ideological differences, cannot be solved by show of force and only by negotiations peace can be achieved and co-existence can be achieved". Alas! Our hopes which were kindled so high at Geneva, very shortly thereafter, were dashed to the ground because then we have the United States Navy marching near to Cremea; more recently we had the American forces jetting into the gulf in a direct challenge to Libya; closer to us we had the

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

notorious carrier 'Enterprise' of 1971 fame berthing at Karachi. It does appear the American Administration and Pentagon have not learnt these lessons. American commentators, American military analysts today recognise that it is not in the national interest of the United States themselves, this approach of coercive diplomacy, and it was not in their interests in the earlier part of 1970s in Vietnam; it was against the national interest of the United States in the later part of the 70s in Iran, as it is right now against their national interests what they are doing in Central America' Whether it is in their national interest or not, what we are concerned with is the threat that this bellicose action poses to our own security. It was about a year or two ago, if I remember aright, that this House discussed with great emotion and sense of danger the sale of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. What is happening right now? What has already happened is that weapons much more sophisticated and much more lethal and much more dangerous than F-16 themselves have already been provided again recently to Pakistan; if I may mention, the Harpoon missiles which destroy and cut at the root of the whole justification of supply of arms to Pakistan in view of the Afghan threat; the Harpoon missiles, the anti-ship missiles, to be used in the sea against ships, cut at the root of the entire case, the entire argument, that arms to Pakistan are to counter the threat from Afghanistan. Surely, there has not been a sea for hundreds and millions of years anywhere between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even more serious are the State-of-the-art weapons, the latest technology which America alone possesses, the weapons which are said to be very dangerous weapons—a short time back in the Lebanon crisis Israel used it to knock out the entire Syrian Air Force within two days—the Stringers which have been mentioned here, the RED EYE, the Shoulder-fired rocket launcher; and now there is a talk that even E 2C Hawkeye, which is an Aerial Early Warning Aircraft (AEW), is going to be provided to Pakistan. These are the threats which are many times, several times, bigger and more dangerous and more lethal than the F-16s. These are what the Americans are providing to Pakistan which, I would respectfully submit, is against their national interests,

which is against security in the world, which is against the mankind who want to live in peace, particularly the third world because these weapons can be used only against the third world; they have only been against us before by Pakistan, against nobody else. Therefore, we cannot grudge for a moment any amount that the Minister for Defence will ask us for the security of this country because security and peace are predominant and preponderant; without security, without peace, no development is meaningful. Why I say is because of this. I will again repeat. We do not have information now to say whether what you are acquiring is good enough or how good it is; we rely on you entirely, we rely on our Generals who have proved their mettle, their integrity and their sense of duty many times over. But then we do strongly urge that our indigenous production must increase, must get on the rails. I am personally speaking here as a backbencher, not happy with the progress or otherwise that we have made for quite a couple of decades on the question of indigenisation of our defence production.

We have the nuclear technology of the best kind. I will not get into the oft-repeated controversy whether we should have weapons of nuclear calibre or not. But I am sure that our scientists who are of the highest calibre in the world can, if they are required to, produce at a short notice nuclear weapons; that I am inclined to believe. The question is because of our commitment to total peace, our commitment which is total for de-nuclearisation of the world, we have not produced these; but I am sure, if the need arises, our scientists in the nuclear field will not be found wanting. So are our space scientists; they are the best in the world; in many respects they have developed technology which I am sure is better than anywhere else in the world. However, the question arises: in spite of this high level of talents, why are we behind the developed countries in our defence technology and armaments? In we have been left behind for the last two decades, we now must make up. Because if we do not make up now, the gap will increase and it will be too late afterwards to make up, for this gap will be for ever, indebtedness to foreign countries will be for ever below the par of requirements at a particular point of time.

Indigenous defence production is a must, flowing not merely from our requirement that we must save foreign exchange, but also flowing from our basic policy of non-alignment which means that we will have the decision ultimately on what is good for us. If we are going to maintain our non-aligned policy, then it is necessary that we should be backed by indigenous capacity to produce our own weapons—whatever armaments that are necessary to defend our right to take our own decisions.

If we are non-aligned and we want to take our own decisions, then we risk the danger. If we import equipment from a country which does not like us to take our own decisions, they may cut off the supply and leave us in the lurch. It happened, for instance, in Argentina recently. In the Malvinas conflict the Argentina was indeed left in the lurch by some suppliers of their own equipment. The indigenous production of weaponry flowing from our own policy is a compulsion. In fact, it is necessary that our foreign policy should be more integrated with our defence policy. It is very good to have a velvet gloves, but behind a velvet gloves must be an iron hand; otherwise the velvet glove is an empty assertion of words, empty assertion of making statements. What is worse is that others come to know of this, to whom these words and statements are addressed that we are not in a position to match them by deeds, to make these statement go through to the last.

The defence services are the fist of the nation. The defence services are the fist of the body politics and therefore Sir, if the body politics is to be healthy, if a nation is to be confident, the fist of the nation, the fist of the body politics must have the capacity which is required to strike as and when necessary.

In regard to research and development, it is good that the Government has realised that a much greater outlay is necessary. This year, as compared to the last year we do witness that a substantial increase has been made for the purpose of research and development. It is a matter of pleasure and what is more, a matter of great pride for

us to see that now with the latest technology the MBT Arjun prototypes are already on trial. It is a matter of great pride because it is here that the latest technology, the best technology is used, which has not been achieved by so many developed countries.

In the LCA also we are making progress, but the question that arises is not merely whether we have completed the planning process, whether we have completed the design process, whether we have completed the research process. Now the main thing is production. The question that arises now is : Have you made any arrangements to produce the 1000, 1500 and 2000 sophisticated Arjun MBT Tanks that you require? If so, how and when? The problem right now is not merely on research and development, but the problem right now with our defence industries is that of production.

Sir, we have monstrous public sector undertakings. They have not, with honourable exceptions I respectfully submit, been able to deliver within the time frame and within the cost that they could. The reason is that in the management there is much to be desired. I urge the Government to have a close look into the management structure of these public sector undertakings. They are having monopolies. They are giants on the lines of Mega Corps—to use a term coined by American writers. They are huge, monstrous giants extending their tentacles everywhere and catching hardly anything. Now we must look into the management structure of these corporations, so that they become commercially viable. They are seen not as a sacred animal, but as commercially viable enterprise producing within the cost and within the timeframe. I urge the Government and suggest that....

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Particularly the armament factories also.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Particularly the armament factories as my leader Prof. Ranga is saying. We have got these Public sector undertakings. You have to get them divided into two or three. We have got to make them smaller and we have got

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

to divide them all over the country. We have got to stop having ordnance factories making shoe laces, tents, etc. All these items which are really of not military nature can be made by private enterprise. Let us have ordnance factories at the lowest cost factor doing high-tech elements so that our military equipment becomes better. It should be done in a time frame.

I have said earlier, and I would like to say once again, that the Defence Forces cannot be islands of excellence. They must be backed by splendid commanders and brave jawans. But our defence forces are not an assurance of total security. Defence forces have got to be backed by every citizen of this country undoubtedly cutting across party lines. The patriotic sense of every citizen must be kindled. In this context, I would like to say and put this for the consideration of the Government that we could introduce a compulsory military service on the lines of so many other countries—the countries as diverse as France and Soviet Union, viz., countries with entirely different political systems. The experience of compulsory military service has shown fantastic results. It was to begin with through compulsory military service that France really asserted its nationhood. It developed patriotic spirit of the people. Before it was a kingdom with lot of Dukes, Bishops and Barons. It became one nation from Corsica to Lyon or Paris.

In Soviet Union after the revolution of 1917 all the regiments, Kosak regiments and other regiments based on region were abolished. There was only one army and every Soviet citizen, a male of 18 years, is required to undergo at least one year to two years of compulsory military service. It has helped tremendously in national integration. Sir, in our country a man from Tamil Nadu should go and have his service in Goa or a man from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and a man from Punjab should go to Kerala and so on and so forth. This will contribute tremendously towards national integration, apart from developing patriotic spirit and sense of discipline which the Minister of Energy was laying stress upon. If we are so capable, brilliant and talented perhaps we

lack in greater sense of discipline and that you get in military service.

We are talking of 21st century and it is a beautiful image. We are having a time frame of 15 years within which we are going to spread science and technology and come to the forefront. If we are going to develop science and technology and create a scientific temper, it is not going to be the hundreds of scientists in our nuclear facilities or space laboratories that are going to solve the problem. Scientific temper has to be at the level of every citizen and this you achieve in a great measure by getting into to the military service. You become a driver, you become an electrician and you develop skills which are of scientific and technical nature, which help in your job and also contribute for a greater awareness and development of the country at large.

We are facing great threats. It is not merely from Pakistan and United States. We are facing it from China too. We were caught unaware when China attacked us in 1962. In the then Lok Sabha, it was said and the Government then said here in this House that we will recover every single inch of the territories that we lost to the Chinese. We will definitely take peaceful initiative, in the sense that we must be prepared to make good and that statement was made on the floor of this House. It was said that every inch of the territory will be recovered by peaceful means.

Now, the greatest enemy that we are facing today—let us not forget—is ourselves. The greatest enemy is unfortunately is within. A writer has recently spoken about a seige within and if you want to succeed completely, then the nation must be one. Let us remember, let us never for our recent history. We never were defeated. We were never conquered. We gave away our freedom to settle scores among ourselves. We invited foreign occupation, cut our nation into jewels for different foreign crowns. Let it never happen again. Let not the forces of religion or otherwise raise its head. Let us all be one and it is only the unity of the people of this country that is the greatest guarantee of the security of this country. It is only the unity of all our

people that will guarantee of the security of this country. If you are united, if you are alert, undoubtedly this country will surely be indivisible.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Defence Ministry. Just now my friend Shri Faleiro has said a lot about defence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the arms race in the World has created danger for the entire humanity. India has always been a votary of peace. We even carried on our independence struggle in a peaceful manner and achieved success in it. But today the country as well as the mankind in the entire world is facing danger. For this we will have to awaken the people of the world against this danger. Ours is a non-aligned country. The sole aim of the imperialistic forces of the world is to see how they can sell their arms and how they can make other countries, whether it is Sri Lanka or Pakistan, fight among themselves. Their whole attention is concentrated on this. The arms seized in Punjab bear foreign marks. Infiltration is going on into our country across the border areas. Our country is poor and is not powerful. We want to see that our country makes progress. But countries like America does not want that we should make progress. They want that we should depend on them. They are our arch enemies. Unless the people of the world condemn them, such things will go on. I would say to the Hon. Defence Minister that the first and foremost task is to strengthen the defence of the country. The country can remain strong only if its defence is strong. Otherwise how much progress we may make, it will be of no use. These imperialistic countries do not want that we should make progress. They are making atomic bomb and other armaments and in this way are trying to destroy our country. But the strength of our country will not allow these countries to succeed in their mission. Our leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi was assassinated. These people thought that India will disintegrate, but the people of India and our Prime Minister have shown to the world that although the people of India are poor and underfed yet they can remain

united. Whenever the country faced danger, the people got united to meet the challenge. During the war of 1971, the brides offered their *mangalsutras* for the defence of the country. Every Indian has faith in his ancient culture. They are conservative but are ready to make sacrifice when time demands. We should manufacture armaments, fighter planes or missiles needed for the defence of the country indigenously. We should provide as much fund as is needed for investment for the defence of the country. There should not be any constraint of fund for this purpose. The Parliament as well as the people are with them. What for has the American fleet been anchored off the Pakistani port of Karachi? During the 1971 war, the American Fifth Fleet had been anchored there. Now its purpose is to demoralise the people of the country. It wants to purchase them. It says about Sri Lanka that the trouble there is their internal affair. We will have to be cautious about such people. Sitting thousands of miles away, they are planning to kill our leaders and scientists and are holding the people of the world to ransom. We will have to think over all these things. Just now, Shri Faleiro has rightly said that our youth should be provided training. A sense of discipline and nationalism should be inculcated among the people. We will have to enact legislation for providing army training as is given in the Soviet Union. There should be provision for compulsory army training for college students. Compulsory army training should be a pre-requisite for joining some job. In this way discipline will be brought about in the country. Such type of legislation is needed for the country. Pakistan is acquiring F-16 planes but we should not be scared of it. In the war of 1971, our jawans blew the America tanks to pieces. I would like to congratulate the jawans who are engaged in the defence of the country. The Parliament as well as the people of India is proud of the fact that America could not find out how our jawans destroyed their tank in the war. We have full faith in the Indian army. It will not allow their ulterior motive to succeed in the war. The people of India will emerge victorious. Our ideology is spreading in the whole world... (Interruption). They are not liking our ideology which we are propagating through the policy of non-alignment. Mr. Nixon has written about the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in his book :

[Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria]

[English]

This woman is an iron woman.

[Translation]

India is not short of such leaders even today. We are not going to surrender before anyone. India is prepared to pay in the same coin. Recently a summit of super powers was held in Geneva for curbing all sorts of nuclear experiments. All these things are meant to mislead the people of the world. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an open secret. Otherwise also no agreement was reached there. The Prime Minister of our country along with the leaders of six other countries requested Mr. Reagan to ban the nuclear experiments but they refused to do so. So, how can we believe that they would not manufacture nuclear arms? It will not be proper for us to manufacture insignificant items instead of armament. These agreements with other countries will not do any good to us. Therefore, we should not have faith in such agreements and Summit talks. Nothing concrete will come out from these agreements. We should develop nuclear weapons and achieve self-sufficiency in it. We will have to expose such people before the world as are bent on destroying the mankind. With these words and with the hope that India will become strong day by day under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, I support the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence and convey my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : This tradition of Minister of State speaking on the first day and the Cabinet Minister speaking on the next day appears to be unfair. It is designed to completely overshadow the contribution made by the Opposition. You may kindly see the reports as made by the All India Radio or Television and even by the so-called free press.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : I am grateful to the Members

who have participated in this debate on Grants for Defence Ministry and I know after I have spoken, a number of other Members will be participating in this debate. They have already made certain suggestions, and they would be making some suggestions, and I assure the Hon. Members of this House that all the suggestions contribute towards the production and, as the Members have desired, I will definitely take note of them.

Sir, as the whole world knows, India is committed for the peace in the world. Not only committed, but we have taken necessary actions and steps to establish peace, and particularly with our neighbouring countries. But we cannot ignore the fact that during these independence of 38 years, four Wars were forced on us and there have been acquisition and accumulation of the sophisticated weapons by our next door neighbour. So just to match up our strength, we have to take necessary steps to modernise our industries, to acquire or produce the sophisticated weapons in our country.

Sir, there are two streams of Defence production in our country, one is the Defence Ordnance Factories and the other is the PSU's public sector undertakings.

As far as the Ordnance Factories are concerned, they are 34 in number, located in different parts of the country and they are engaged in production of vast range of weapons and armaments just to cater the needs of our armed forces. This wide spectrum of the Defence system includes battle tanks, infantry combat vehicles, light and medium guns, small arms, wide range of ammunitions, mines, bridges, combats and transport aircraft, helicopters, super-alloys, wide range of electronics communications, avionics, Radars, and many other items which are being produced by our Ordnance Factories in our country. This House has probably come to know through the Press that recently we have entered into an agreement; the agreement has been signed, under which a very high calibre gun known as 155 MM is to be produced in our country. These are the steps...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is it to be produced or purchased ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : I talk about production, because I am concerned with the Production side, not with purchase. (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Members have mentioned that we are producing certain items which are of low technology value, or that they are very simple items. In order to attain higher sophistication and to utilize our investment and manpower, it has been decided by our Prime Minister that these simple items have to be shed off to public sector units, Central or State; if necessary, to the private sector also. We would have done it by this time; but the question is: shedding of all these items would have created the problem of retrenchment of manpower. But our Prime Minister has issued directions that nobody has to be retrenched. So, the Ordnance Factory Board has engaged the services of a Consultant just in order to prepare a plan as to how to modernize factories, how to manufacture the State of the Art weapons, and how to instal a flexible manufacturing system. It does not mean that we have not made any development, or we have not manufactured any sophisticated weapons. Already, our Research and Development Department has designed and developed a number of items which are being produced by the Ordnance factories and our public sector undertakings. There are certain other items which are of a sophisticated nature, about which my colleague will throw light. They are in the pipeline; and we are trying to see that the entire infrastructure and capacity which we have got in Defence Production Factories is used for the production of such sophisticated items.

I may assure this House that no retrenchment is to be made; but one thing may be there, viz. that we may have to redeploy manpower rendered surplus by changing over to these sophisticated or high value items. So, I think the Members of this House will definitely cooperate, keeping in view the urgency which this country is faced, in respect of these things. There will be no retrenchment.

I have already made a statement, and the Prime Minister has also made it very clear; and I make it very clear on the floor of the House that it will involve no retrenchment.

It may involve the deployment of labour. We may have to give training, so that they acquire the skill needed for the other type of production.

Now about the value engineering projects. During the preceding financial year, about 100 such value engineering projects were being executed. This would lead to efficiency. This may result in the saving of about Rs. 97 lakhs. So, we are taking every necessary action. We have also decided that regarding the items which are going to be off-loaded to other sectors, or the private sector, we are not going to create additional capacity or facility for them and if there is an additional requirement of the armed forces, that additional requirement has to be off loaded to the other sector. As far as the performance of the ordnance factories is concerned, you will appreciate that there has been a steady production in all these years, and this year, there was a record production which gives an increase of 16 per cent, which was never obtained previously; as compared to 14.5 per cent last year and in 1983-84, it was 11 per cent; and the total production in 1985-86 is Rs. 1,353 crores, *i.e.* production was in excess of the target fixed; that was Rs. 1,325 crores. Simply by saying that we have achieved, that we have exceeded the target, does not mean that we are satisfied with that. I know there are certain areas where improvement is needed. I am aware about it and under the direction of the Prime Minister we are working hard to overcome those difficulties and speed up their production; and I hope we will come up to the expectations of this House in due course of time.

As far as self-reliance is concerned, the members who took part earlier, had shown concern about it and rightly so. As I have already stated, our ordnance factories are continuously modernised and observing modern technology; and there has been a very close co-ordination between the ordnance factories management and Research and Development just to eliminate delay. All the facilities which are available in the ordnance factories are at the disposal of the Research and Development so that time gap which used to be there between the development of the item by the Research and Development and then its production by the ordnance factories,

[Shri Sukh Ram]

will be shortened; and thus we will be in a position to produce those items expeditiously; and then we have a number of sophisticated weapons. We are in the process of manufacturing or we are already manufacturing them under the licence agreement so that there may not be any delay. So, a Steering Committee has been set up so that in case there is any problem that problem can be sorted out and transfer of technology takes place according to the schedule.

So, these are some of the steps; and then a concern was expressed here that indigenisation process is very slow. If I say that a lot of improvement has been made in this field also and it will be proved by the fact that out of the total purchases we are making for the raw-materials and other components for production in the ordnance factories, 1.9 per cent is the import content of gross production value you can imagine in the ordnance factories themselves how much indigenisation has taken place.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Very good.

SHRI SUKH RAM : We are rather in a hurry that we should not depend on this import for long; and then we have already taken certain steps.

17.00 hrs.

We have already taken certain steps to accelerate the production, that is, the emphasis is now laid on the strategic and sensitive items that will be produced by the Ordnance Factories; they are already being produced and more will be added as I have already mentioned. Modernisation and upgradation of the technology and speed reduction and close co-operation, etc., are also there. These are the policy decisions which we have taken and it is my duty to ensure that these are implemented effectively.

Sometimes after meeting the demands of the Services, there is spare capacity and this spare capacity is being used for meeting the demands of the other Government departments and in this way we have earned about Rs. 32.44 crores in the year 1984-85 and

in that we have also contributed in saving foreign exchange also. For example, gelatine explosives are being manufactured for the coal industry thus saving several lakhs of rupees in foreign exchange. Previously, they were being imported but now it is the Defence Ministry which is producing all these items and the impact of the Ordnance Factories in national development also is appreciable. Apart from the items which factories are producing we are imparting training to one thousand persons annually under the Apprenticeship Act and out of those, seventy per cent used to be absorbed in the Ordnance Factories, themselves, but now keeping in view the fact that lot of systems changes have been made and some policy decisions are taken, and there should not be any over-employment we have imposed a ban. Only where it is essential, recruitment will be made but we prepare these young men to get jobs in the open market.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Are they recruited from all over India, from all parts of the country ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Wherever the factories are located, by and large from that area only.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is that apprenticeship for one year ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : There is an organisation, known as Quality Assurance Organisation. Its main function is to test and examine all the weapons, armaments, ammunition we are manufacturing, so that they conform to the international standard and they meet the stringent requirements of our Armed Forces.

17.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

I may state here that under the economy drive which the Prime Minister launched, we have surrendered about 1,107 posts from the D. G. I. organisation. Apart from this, there were number of other posts which we have surrendered from our Directorates and even from the Secretariat also, resulting thereby in a saving of lakhs of rupees.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : How many did you say—707 ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : One thousand one hundred and seven posts have been abolished in that economy drive. But I may add in this behalf that nobody is going to be retrenched. Most of the people who have been rendered surplus have been absorbed against the available posts which were lying vacant and some may have to be transferred to other departments within the Defence Ministry so that they are absorbed and there is no problem. They are getting salary and everything.

As far as the other streams of production are concerned, that is all the undertakings, they are nine in number. And the production in these public undertakings has increased from Rs. 1685.63 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 1758.91 crores in 1985-86. In terms of sale, it has increased from Rs. 1350.61 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 1762.01 crores in 1985-86, *i. e.*, an increase of about 30 per cent. This House would be glad to know that out of these nine undertakings, have contributed a profit of more than Rs. 100 crores. If profit on the paid up capital is to be calculated, it comes to 27.9 per cent, if it is calculated on sale, then it comes to 5.70 per cent and if it is to be considered on the capital employed, then it comes to 6.24 per cent.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Your purchaser being the Defence Department—a captive purchaser—the way you price these commodities, you always have a profit. There is no question of loss.

SHRI SUKH RAM : There are three undertakings where we are going in losses. And prices are not fixed according to our whims and fancies. That is not the correct position.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Can you tell me the manpower cost of HAL as compared to BEL ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt like this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKH RAM : There is a system under which we charge the price from the user. We cannot do it at our whims and fancies.

As far as the public undertakings are concerned, the Prime Minister has taken a certain policy decision under which these public undertakings are required to prepare the perspective plan for five years, and that is co-terminus with the Seventh Five Year Plan. This perspective plan envisages production worth Rs. 3000 crores by the end of this plan *i. e.* 1989-90. We have introduced certain system changes through fortnightly and monthly progress reports which I get, I myself monitor production and the projects which are under execution. And quarterly review is taken by the Secretary of the Department. We are constantly in touch with the management. What is happening in these undertakings or the ordnance factories, we know about that and it has helped us in expediting things.

We have decided to introduce computerisation system so that there is a control on the inventory and we get information immediately. These are some of the actions we have taken so that the production is cost effective. The norms for the labour which were fixed a few years ago, are also proposed to be changed so that there is efficiency in the labour also.

HAL, which is one of our premier organisations and which, as a matter of fact, is the pride of the nation, is engaged in the production of aircrafts for civil needs, combat aircrafts, helicopters and avionics, and this organisation has achieved a profit of Rs. 53 crores as against Rs. 48 crores in the previous year. The main contribution of this undertaking during the year under discussion is releasing MiG-27 aircrafts to the Air Force and manufacturing of five Donier aircrafts for the Civil Aviation Ministry. The Prime Minister made a suggestion to this undertaking that they should survey and study as to what extent there is a possibility of manufacturing the small executive aircrafts. They are studying this. A survey has already been conducted and as you are aware, only a few days ago the Chairman of the Small Aircrafts Association from USA came here and he said that India had got great potential for manufacturing these small aircrafts because the affluent nations like USA, Canada, etc. are not interested in manufacturing small aircrafts. We are examining this possibility.

BEL also has made tremendous progress and... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : When we do not have the design for an ordinary executive aircraft, how are we hoping to produce light combat aircraft?

SHRI SUKH RAM : This may be licensed production. You have to depend for certain technology on foreign countries also. There is no harm in that. But we purchase the technology just to produce things in our own country...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Like Maruti. Only screw drivers.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I would like to use this opportunity for dispelling certain impression created by a certain section of the Press about the exposure of workers to X-ray radiation in Ghaziabad. I am making it clear that the radar being manufactured no doubt required a high-voltage for its transmitter in Ghaziabad. Some workers are working there but they have been provided with the safeguards. When we purchased this technology from France, they provided lead shield which is the perfect safeguard from exposure of the workers to the radiation. The workers have been working in radar for the last ten years. They are about 65 workers out of which there are four women workers and during these years there was not even a single complaint by any worker about any health problem. It was only when this lead shield was got tested from the BARC—the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre—when the experts came over there, that some doubts must have crept in their minds. But when the lead shields were examined and tested by them, they were found all right and there was no defect in them. There was some apprehension in the minds of the people and workers over there. 4 workers who are working close to this transmitter were sent to the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre. And there, the Chromosome Aberration Test was conducted. We have received the report. There is no clinical defect in any person. There was no abnormality. In spite of the fact that the Management contradicted this news, still people go on persisting in creating the panic in the minds of the workers. I think Hon. Members would appreciate the facts which I have stated over here. There is no danger to any employee. We are careful about the workers' health. We have provided welfare activities for them. It is our duty to look

after their health. It is our duty to see that nothing wrong happens to anybody.

AN HON. MEMBER : Are there not some vested interests involved in this propaganda?

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am not aware of it. There seems to be some interest. I am told that some union is there. I don't know how far it is correct. But something is there.

SHRI H. A. DORA : About nuclear deterrent you have not mentioned.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM : I may say that indigenisation has taken place very fast in our Defence undertakings.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : It had been, but not now. Now it has been halted by the present Government.

SHRI SUKH RAM : It has been taking place. It is in the process. We are making progress. It is proved from the fact that the DGI Organisation inspected and accepted the weapons and armaments and ammunition and other software to the tune of Rs. 2400 crores, out of which the import content is only 16.6 per cent. You can imagine what is the import content and what is our self-reliance as far as the Defence equipments and other software are concerned.

These are some of the important aspects which I wanted to highlight. I am grateful to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for giving me the time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members may now move their cut motions.

SHRI GOPALA KRISHNA THOTA : I beg to move—

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to grant House Rent Allowance to married J. C O.'s and OR's who have not been allotted Government accommodation.](2)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the tuition fee and the number of schools for the children of defence personnel.](3)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase road mileage allowance from 8 paise to 30 paise per k. m. for defence personnel in bus fares](4)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate educational facilities in boarding schools to the children of those soldiers who are in the field areas.](5)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to introduce time scale promotion based on seniority for JCO's and OR's.](6)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove the ACR (Annual Confidential Report) system in Defence services.](7)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give instructions to all officers not to employ soldiers for domestic work.](8)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide jobs to all the army personnel who are retired from service.](9)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot some land or house site to ex-servicemen.](10)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review thoroughly disparity in the pay scales and allowances of army personnel.](11)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services Army be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to revise the pay scales of Junior Commissioned Officers' and other ranks.](12)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move—

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to achieve self reliance in indigenisation of defence equipments.](13)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for improved R and D facilities for progressive research in design and development of sophisticated weapons and equipments required by our armed forces.](14)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to inculcate a sense of service, patriotism, discipline and adventure into the minds of youth belonging to National Cadet Corps (N. C. C.)](15)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to promote co-operation and understanding between the civil authorities and armed forces.](16)

[Shri Ramachandra Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give over-riding priority for the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen.](17)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take steps so that sufficient credit is provided to retired defence personnel who intend to start small scale, and House-hold industries](18)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to raise a Welfare Fund for the War Bereaved families of defence personnel](19)

"That the demand under the head Defence Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to start Sainik Boards in the backward districts of Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh.](20)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services Navy be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to examine the purchase of Air-craft carrier from Britain.](21)

"That the demand under the head Defence Services—Air Force be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to re-consider purchase of helicopters at exorbitant rates from U. S. A](22)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot more funds for the Naval Dockyards Project Vishakha-patnam.](23)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct a full fledged ordnance factory in Medak district in Andhra Pradesh.](24)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to pay more compensation for the lands acquired for the ordnance factory in Medak district in Andhra Pradesh.](25)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give employment to persons whose lands have been acquired for Medak Ordnance factory.](26)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give preference to the local people in the jobs in Medak Ordnance factory.](27)

"That the demand under the head capital outlay on Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to finance adequately for the ancillary industries that are coming in and around the Medak ordnance factory.](28)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Amal Datta. He is here.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will Shri Arun Singhji speak at 5-30 ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You speak now; you take 10 minutes or 15 minutes.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then, will I speak again tomorrow ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. The time allotted is 14 minutes. You take one more minute and finish in 15 minutes. You can take one more minute.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You give me more time. I will take a little more time.

(*Interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already put so many questions.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I am in a very difficult position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You briefly tell us what are your points. You are a good lawyer.

(*Interruption*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I rise to oppose these Demands for Grands not because I grudge any money to the Defence Department—that will be most unpatriotic—but it is because the Department can never be made accountable for what they are doing. This is a very peculiar situation and amongst all the so-called parliamentary democracies of the world, it is only in the Indian parliamentary democracy that Defence is such a holy cow that questions can not be asked it as to how the money given to it so generously by Parliament year after year is being spent, whether it is being wasted down the drain or thrown into the sea, one does not know. We have rised this point year after year in this debate, but no change has been forthcoming, no additional information is coming from the Defence Department. Questions asked in Parliament are returned back saying that it cannot be answered, sometimes without giving any reason, without stating under which clause of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Business of the House questions cannot be answered. This is the position. Who decides that ? I don't think that the Speaker or anybody on behalf of the Speaker decides that; it is the Defence Department that decides that. They dictate terms to Parliament and the Parliament accepts it meekly. This is the position. That is one of the reasons why the time for the Defence debate has been cut from 8 hours to 6 hours this time and if we do not get any further information also, in future I hope the Defence Debate does not take place or is at all it will be ritual for 15 minutes and we will all say, 'We will support, we will support, you take the money that you

want'. So, that is the position and it becomes a useless ritual to have a Defence debate without information, as Mr. Faleiro said. I fully support him when he said that there is a peculiar security psychosis as if anything that the Defence Department people know—they are entitled to know, nobody else outside the Department is entitled to know anything about Defence. That is the attitude so far displayed. It is very unfortunate because in other countries, in U.K. from whose Parliament we have taken up this parliamentary system, and even U. S. A. they decide after thorough discussion of any arms acquisition.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : In other countries there would not be any debate.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Any arms acquisition is thoroughly discussed there in Parliament and in public before that acquisition is gone through and here we come to know that commitment has been made to acquire such and such arms and only then they say 'This is required for such and such reasons'. So, the strategy is build up after the arms have been acquired to explain why the arms have been acquired and people are never taken into confidence either before or after the arms have been acquired as to the capability and competence, what they have been acquiring for, what is the role, what is the function, what is the cost and how it will be effective against the enemy, which front, which theatre—nothing at all.

Sir, the accountability should be much more than is otherwise obvious to the people. When Mr. Ayyapu Raddy said that 14 paise out of every rupee of the Government is spent on Defence, I think it is true that the Budget says that kind of thing with a diagram and all that to make it easy for the people, but those who are willing to scrutinise the thing a little deeper than that will realise that the total disposable income of the Central Government is not Rs. 52,000 crores which is the total amount spent through the budget because the totality of it is not income of on the Central Government. The Central Government collects quite a bit of this money on behalf of the State Governments, under the Constitution they are bound to hand it over to the State Governments. That is about Rs. 7000 crores. And another Rs. 8000 crorers goes for

[Shri Amal Datta]

interest payment which the Central Government has to make. After taking out all this, only Rs. 34,000 crores remain out of which the Defence expenditure is Rs. 11,285 crores. I have personally calculated that by taking into account not only the Demands 17 to 22, which comes to Rs. 10,349 crores, but adding to that the other expenditure which relates to Defence, namely, paramilitary forces, Defence industries and border roads. All this together comes to Rs. 13,185 crores, a full 1/3rd of the expenditure of the Central Government—Plan, non-Plan, revenue capital, all put together. 1/3rd of the total expenditure goes into Defence. So, I will say that your accountability is much more than what you otherwise make it out to be. It is not 14 paise in a rupee. Then, if you calculate what is the Central Government's revenue the Central Government's revenue is only Rs. 22,692 crores net of payment to States, because payment to States is a Constitutional obligation. They are just collecting on behalf of you. They are collecting agents. Out of this say Rs. 22,692 crores, Rs. 11,185 crores is the Defence expenditure, more than 50 per cent of total revenue earning of the Central Government. So, that is your accountability and you should give information to Parliament, because otherwise 50 per cent of the Government's money is being voted without any proper discussion as the working of the Department. We only discuss generally as to what is happening, what Pakistan is doing, what U.S.A. is doing and what we should be doing, what arms we should be acquiring, not knowing at all what is the capability of F-16—I do not know. Some newspaper will say something and some agency says something else. The question whether Pakistan, in fact, has got all the avionics, whether Pakistan has got all the armaments, all the missiles which go with it, we do not know. Our Defence Department has not made it clear, whatever is its information. They say, they have acquired F-16: so we must now acquire Mirage, as the Jaguar is old. You did not know that Jaguar was old. When we went into the agreement in 1978-79 for Jaguar and when the agreement was signed in 1978-79—we started acquiring it from 1980—did we not know that Pakistan had already asked for F-16? They had already asked for F-16 in 1979 itself. Our people should have known it if they

have any intelligence service. This has come out in recent time when the Iranian government published the documents seized from the American Embassy in Tehran. Pakistan had asked for F-16 in 1978 and at that time they had made it clear; they did not want it against Afghanistan but they wanted it against India. It was made clear by the Pakistan Government, by the then Foreign Secretary, Mr. Agha Shahi. It had come out last year when the Iranian Government published these documents.

So, coming back to the Defence expenditure side, some people said, it is 4 per cent or less. It is not 4 per cent or less. If you take GNP which is Rs. 188 thousand crores, and take the entirety of the defence expenditure, it is Rs. 11 thousand crores. It is 6 per cent. But GNP should not be the basis of calculation although many people do it—I do not know for what reason. It should be net national product. And then, it is 6.5 per cent or so, we are spending on defence. I am not saying that you do not spend it. I am saying that you spend it and account for it. Show the account for every penny that you have taken out from the revenue of the country where people do not get enough to eat. They do not even get drinking water. Are you not wastefully spending the money? You should ensure that you spend purposefully. That is your obligation which you are not discharging. Year after year you are just evading your obligation. Even for Questions in Parliament, you just are careless. When we ask for certain details of the Defence Department you just don't care and you say, "No, it cannot be answered". It is simply like that.

Now, we have got a very peculiar situation, here in India. I will start with the Defence Report, as everybody does that. The national security environment... (*Interruptions*) Now on this national security environment chapter, the report does not speak of Sri Lanka issue, as if it is not only not an irritant to us but also not a future threat to India. And it does not speak of Bangladesh issue. Fencing and illegal immigration are big issues, at least in some parts of India, if not in the whole of India or to Delhi. And then, what is the position in the Indian Ocean so far as the rapid deployment forces and other things are concerned. A vague

reference has been made. It should have been made clear where real threat lies, not only today but also in future days. In future days, Pakistan may not be a threat but the threat will come from those for whom Pakistan is playing a proxy today directly. And that should have been made very obvious to us. The report omits to state the U.S. role in getting bases in Pakistan, a very recent affair.

Then how are they trying to escalate the insurgency in Afghanistan to tie up the Soviet forces? How have they spread in the Indian Ocean bases about 200,000 strong rapid Deployment Forces in all the littoral States bordering East Coast of Africa to Maldives and everywhere?

The other thing is China. No progress has been made after six rounds of talks and then apprehension in that the Chinese will re-deploy their forces from Sino-Soviet border. They will bring them to the Tibetan border. Are you writing a fiction or what? Don't you know that Chinese are halving their army strength? They are reducing the expenditure as a percentage of gross national product of income to half of what they were spending before. They are also very rightly reducing *(Interruptions)*. That intelligence must be available to you. But just to mislead, you said that there is a threat.

AN HON. MEMBER : Has it got any source?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : The source is the newspaper reports published in India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I do not feel ashamed because China has never harmed India, according to me after 1962 war. At that time *(Interruptions)* you showed your muscles, they showed their muscles.

The main defect of our defence structure is that there is no proper organisation which is there in every other country. There

should be a joint organisation of the External Affairs and Defence Department, some kind of National Security Council which will perceive what are the threats of the country from various sources, what are the technologies through which these threats can come, what are the technologies available to us, what is the position not only today but tomorrow and day after, 15 or 20 years hence. There is no such organisation which will jointly assess and perceive the threat, jointly plan the strategy by which to dispel the threat today, tomorrow and after that, how to plan for that and then integrate the defence planning with the country's total over-all industrial and economic planning. This is something wonderful. There is no organisation to do that. There is supposed to be a Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs which is the ultimate Body which decides the policies. There is no Secretariat and no such supporting staff who will advise them, who will prepare papers for them, to make them knowledgeable about what is happening elsewhere in the world. Today's technology may not be tomorrow's technology. Tomorrow it will be quite different when the SDI America has started, when it matures, what will be the position? If we are to think today of 21st century which the Prime Minister is already doing, in that case, we have to know what will be the position in 21st century and not be afraid of today's F. 16s and Harpoon missiles. We have to prepare for that and assess who will be the enemy whether Pakistan at all comes in the sphere of things or not.

Regarding planning the Defence Report, say there was a 1980-85 Plan, after that, the next plan is being finalised. That is what the report says. The planning machinery is a compilation machinery. These plans come from different services and there is a small Section in the Secretariat whose duty is just to compile these plans and coordinate and harmonise them. But this is not the concept of over-all planning and then reflect it into the planning of defence production, mobilisation and operation. What should be done is to keep the object of self-reliance in view. This has never been done. Unfortunately, our Ministers have said that we are producing so much and so little the import content of

[Shri Amal Datta]

that. I ask you what is the totality of our sophisticated imports and what is the import content of that, our sophisticated arms and armaments and what is the import content of that? Sir, whenever we go for sophistication, we go for imports and 90 per cent of what we use, the sophisticated armaments we use, are imported and the armaments, weapons, aircraft cannot be used because at the crucial time, the supply of vital parts fails. This has been happening because we have diverted from the policy which we have taken earlier of self reliance; we have diverted from the policy of relying on those who are reliable in times of need. We depended on the Soviet sources of supply since 1965, when we knew that the American sources dried up at the time of need when the Americans came here and made sure that we do not use the armaments that we bought from America by paying our hard earned dollars against Pakistan which today are not...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the Hon. Member is up.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, why are you ringing the bell ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have taken 18 minutes.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We have gone to France to buy; we have gone to Germany to buy and we have gone to America also to buy. They have not signed the agreements yet and we are in a dilemma whether to sign that 'security on defence information agreement or not. I do not know whether the Government has done it surreptitiously. They do not let us know because of that it is always suspect to us, it does not supply us information, but we get the information through third party sources.

One or two words about which something has been mentioned in the Report. Nothing can be done at this time. They have been claiming for some time that they

have manufactured the MBT. Even the picture has been shown here. It is said that the MBT is the pride of the Army. On page 72 they say, "The prototypes of the ARJUN are undergoing technical evaluation. "When these are undergoing technical evaluation, it becomes the pride of the Army already. The Army does not know when to take pride? They could not wait for the trials. You have imposed this pride on the Army.

The MBT has been under development for the last 12 to 13 years. What have you done ultimately? Your people have been praising the DRDO. The DRDO is responsible for not being able to develop the engine. Wonderful. We have imported the engine now after 12 years trying to develop it. I would have understood if at the first instance you said 'let us bring one from outside and later let us develop our own'. For 12 years you failed. Then you have bought the engine from outside. Now you take pride in this? Are not you ashamed that we have not been able to do it? If they are not, then we are very sorry for them.

So far as the ICA is concerned, again the same picture is repeated. ICA, it is surprising to hear, the concept of ICA came in 1968. The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Subramanian, the then Minister, recommended that there should be an all purpose air supremacy aircraft built indigenously. The thing was kept in cold storage and again revived in 1978. In 1980, they took the decision that they will go for ICA. They gave HAL design bureau this job and it took seriously this job for three years; they worked on it. They did some design. In the meantime, in the process of designing it, they designed the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) for which the specifications were submitted to the Defence Ministry in 1984. No decision has been taken because the vested interest found that AJT would have developed 90 per cent of the role of ICA. This has been admitted by no less a person than the Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency. Dr. Valluri in his recent article has said that AJT would have performed 90 per cent of the role of the LCA. Only a loss of 10 per cent. What does not

matter? If we have today manufactured AJT, we could have reached the position where by incremental improvement difference would have been significant. We have done so. We have been saying that Rs. 600 crores were allocated. Actually Rs. 1500 crores is the visualised project cost. Today project cost visualised at Rs. 2000 crores, for not evolving through our research an engine, an air-frame and a weapon system or avionics, but to get them from abroad. The Report says that ADA has finished feasibility studies? What does it mean? Has it done the feasibility studies? It has not. It had given to four different companies in Europe to do the feasibility studies—one in France, two in Germany, one in Great Britain and so on. You will be surprised to know that these four companies have different philosophies of avionics, different philosophies of aeronautics, and all these four companies have said, peculiarly enough, that the design which was made by HAL was fundamentally correct. Now what we are going to do is to buy the engine, get the design for air-frame and build everything here, that is, do the assembly. Again we are going back to our original technology; the same for MBT, the same for LCA. Why do we praise the DRDO for wasting money? What have they done? They are claiming in this Report that today the cumulative production on their designs is Rs. 1200 crores. Is it true? What is the basis of that? Can you give us an account? I challenge, you cannot give us an account that the DRDO has produced this thing that thing, and the total value of what has been produced on such designs is Rs. 1200 crores—not produced in one year, but produced over the whole period of time; it is not even that. It is a miserable failure. The scientists who work there are very brilliant scientists, but the total management is so arbitrary, so tyrannical, that it is demoralising them; those people cannot work there as scientists and they cannot get the results. The DRDO has not achieved any results. Until this malaise is removed, our research will be at its rock-bottom where it is today. The DRDO must be totally reorganized and there should be no ad hoc appointments, ad hoc recruitments, ad hoc promotions, which position has been going on for so long. You must reorganize the DRDO. Otherwise, there is no way we can do our defence even adequately, not to say, totally.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kumaramangalam. Then the Minister will intervene.

AN HON. MEMBER: When?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today itself.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): We want the Minister to reply at the end of the debate tomorrow...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will reply. He is only intervening!

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Prime Minister will naturally revel in glossy generalities. We want more specific answers which can be given only by the Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Defence is one of the most important activities of any Union Government, especially ours. It is known normally as the prime, sovereign function. After all, you cannot have a politically independent State with no defence.

My friend from the other side who just spoke before me spoke of China never having done any harm to India at all and seems to have forgotten the 1962 conflict. I suppose, I do recollect, the Communist Parties split on this issue, and I was hoping that their stands had changed. But the loyalty looks like being very firm and well-entrenched; the loyalty does not seem to be to our nation but to some other nation. It is rather unfortunate; that without even taking note of the fact that China aggressed at one time and has, in fact, quite a bit of our territory under their control even now, the statement was made. Instead of taking note of this well known fact, to go ahead to say that China has never harmed India and never will harm and, therefore, we need not have even an army is rather unfortunate.

AN HON. MEMBER: I did not say it.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :
Well, you implied it. I Unnikrishnam, do you also join it ?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHMAN : I thought at least you knew where I am.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :
Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at least somebody has admitted that there is a question of recovery of land, I am obliged, I am sure you would agree with me that one cannot say that Defence should not have a reasonable budget. After all, what is the use of having economic development if we don't have even the political independence, when you cannot protect the same. Therefore, I quite understand that none of them is grudging the amount that has to be granted to Defence Department.

The question that they have raised is the accountability. I think, I would like to go on record saying that it is in our country that the question of defence is accountable not only in Parliament, but also in articles, in newspapers and magazines far more than anywhere else in the world. You can know more about the Indian Army and the Indian Armed Forces in a normal newspaper and magazine than you can know about any other Armed Forces. There, I think, you get more details than what the Department itself would give out.

Sir, I would like to stick to one or two subjects because the time is very short and I know that the Hon. Minister of State would be intervening. The question essentially I deal with is, of course, the purchase of the aircraft carrier Hermes. I know the Hon. Member of Parliament who opened the debate from the opposition had mentioned it in passing. I thought it was in approval. I am not too sure, it is or it is not, because he himself was not sure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we all know of the Pakistani naval re-armament. Not only are we aware of it, we are also aware of the new Harpoon missiles, and of the earlier missiles which they had with them. It is high time that, considering the range,

trajectory etc., of those missiles we develop a stand-all superiority over their fleet at least. We can do this by having an aircraft carrier. Vikrant alone would not do. The question is if we go in for an aircraft carrier like the Enterprise it is going to cost us way high somewhere around Rs. 700 or Rs. 800 crores, because it is a nuclear power aircraft carrier. But the question is, first of all, that of its availability. Secondly we all must take note of the fact that the Hermes, the Saratoga, the Midway etc., all these famous aircraft carriers are of the same age. If one tries to buy a new one, it is going to cost anywhere between Rs. 100 and Rs. 120 crores. That figure is reasonably right. It is known in the international market and we are getting it for almost 1/5th of its price. I don't see why we should look a gift-horse in the mouth. There is no purpose in being foolish especially when it is going to be re equipped for us. We have gone ahead and bought the Harrier aircraft. These vertical take-off and landing aircrafts need special jumping facility which is a different facility from what is now available in Vikrant. In fact, we are re-equipping Vikrant for these planes. Well, this particular Hermes was and is effectively handling these planes.

If we have Harriers and buy more Harriers, obviously the most important thing is to have an aircraft carrier which suits for us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we all know that this was the flag ship in the Falkland struggle. It can take on nearly 38 aircraft on it and it would be very useful. Of course, the question does arise of negotiations. I hope that the Ministry of Defence does a good bargain, I am quite certain about it. The Carrier would be useful to us. In addition to the Hermes aircraft carrier, I think there is an important point about missiles. We cannot continue spending millions of dollars of foreign exchange on buying missiles from abroad. Is it not time that we indigenously develop them. After all we have started putting satellites in space. It is time that we have a range to test these missiles. It is time that we develop the technology to that level. It is obvious that to have a range in a country as dense as ours it must be in a coastal area. I understand from a report that a site has been chosen but, however, there are certain

people who are whipping up local sentiments against. Well this goes against national interest. If I may in short say I would be very very grateful if we find that the other States which have been chosen and I understand that Orissa is unwilling to have this range—if they could send it to Tamil Nadu, I am sure, Tamil Nadu would be the most happy to accept it because we require a few Central projects and a little employment. I understand that Kanyakumari is well suited except that there may be a little more expenditure. If the Government is willing to spend it there would be local resistance and we are willing to have it, and we will come with all the reception they require. There will be no local opposition at all. On the contrary we will lay a red carpet for them. But, however, the importance of a national range cannot be minimised.

Sir, I understand that it has been set-up at Balasore in Orissa. It is necessary that people understand that this provides employment and avenues for technology development and also raises the standard of living. If I may just complete by saying that there are many questions which are of importance including the light combat aircraft. The question is that we have the capacity and capability and it is necessary for us to go ahead. That decision is a good decision though a little late. Unless we have a light combat aircraft we will not be really self-sufficient in Defence.

There are questions, of course, on the matter of service. Armed forces and the civilian employees should get on with each other and have a better understanding. There is a tendency for armed forces to take civilian employees for granted. That is not going to work. It is the proper coordination between these two sections of employees of our State that would be in the better interest of Defence. I can quite categorically say on the Floor of this House that on the part of the civilian employees they are willing to work; they have worked hard and they will even work harder. Even on question like pension it is these employees who have come forward and said let us have a survey and decide how much is the productivity that is required from each employee and we will give it. All we want is co-operation from the

Defence Ministry and the Armed Forces personnel. Let them not take civilian employees as bonded labour.

I congratulate the Department of DRDO for their developmental activities, especially in the development of advanced radar or a sophisticated sonar or a light field gun. I know that they have lot of credits to their advantage but more than that, I think, their scientists require a lot more encouragement and not discouragement from this House. There is a tendency for us to criticise the DRDO without realising that the scientists who work in DRDO get demoralised, when they find that, though they sacrificed a fantastic career in the western countries for the interest of this nation, yet the representatives of the people are ridiculing them.

Sir, I thank you and I am sorry for having taken so much time. I might only say that my learned friends on the other side should understand that Defence is a very sensitive subject and anything they say on the Floor of the House is a matter that can even affect the morale of this country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, according to the List of today's Business, half-an-hour discussion will have to be taken at 6'o clock. I may request the Hon. Members concerned that we may postpone the subject to some other day so that the Minister of State in the Department of Research and Development, Shri Arun Singh may intervene in the debate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we can postpone the Half-an-hour discussion to some other day. I hope the House will accept his proposal.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, we can postpone the Half-an-hour discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Arun Singh to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH

AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that both Mr. Dutta and Mr. Jaipal Reddy have left the House because one of the fundamental criticisms that both were making stem from the same basic source. Both Mr. Datta and Mr. Reddy and Mr. Faleiro before them, made reference to the fact that the Department of Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence tends to treat its deliberations, its policies and its decisions as a matter of great secrecy. It is our objective in this particular debate to take advantage of the fact that there happens to be one Cabinet Minister, the Prime Minister himself, two Ministers of State of the Ministry of Defence and what we are attempting to do was that my colleague Mr. Sukh Ram would discuss in detail the activities of the Department of Defence Production and Supply and I would look after or discuss matter relating to Defence Research and Development and the Prime Minister tomorrow would respond principally to the subjects arising out of matters relating to Department of Defence. The objective behind that was to make available to you and through you to the House as much information as we could about what is happening in the Ministry of Defence. There have been several references in the past two months to the activities of the DRDO and also in this debate, as in previous budget debates. We have proceeded from one polar extreme to the other in this short afternoon today. Mr. Ayyapu Reddy praising the activities of the Department fulsomely and Mr. Dutta criticising them. In the normal course, the activities of the Department of Defence Research and Development have been confined to some of the more glamerous projects that is, battle tanks, light-combat aircrafts, national test range, international co-operation, etc Since I have had the good fortune to be the first Minister specifically in charge of this Department, I therefore take this opportunity to discuss the activities of our Department in a little more detail. Before I start, I would like to set the fundamental framework to outline what Defence Research in our context actually means, because it means somewhat more than the Department of Research and Development. We see Defence Research as a 3-tier activity. At the first level, the Defence services themselves—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—

have a very considerable design and the development capability in their workshops, in their depots in their Dockyards, in their training camps we have a very encouragingly and impressively high level of skilled manpower.

18.00 hrs.

These are facts which are not known, I think as widely as they should be. This manpower in the Defence Services themselves, again somewhat surprisingly, a very high proportion of this manpower, is devoted to the development of software as opposed to its utilization for hardware. And, therefore, when I discuss Defence research, I believe that there is a very significant place which the Defence Services officers themselves occupy in activities of research and development.

At the second level, we have the ordnance factories, and public sector undertakings. Again, what is perhaps not commonly known is that many of these public sector undertakings and some of the ordnance factories possess skills in terms of manpower, equipment assets, laboratory assets, research assets, comparable to anything available in the developing world and in some cases comparable to the best in the developed world. Some of the most extraordinary achievements of the Department of Space, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Ocean Development and all other scientific Departments in this country have taken place because of the activities conducted in ordnance factories and public sector undertakings.

The third tier of defence research is the D.R.D.O. which deals with the basic research skills and basic development activities.

The second factor that I wanted to place before you is that defence research also embodies two types of activities in very broad and general terms. On the one hand, they have, what we call *ab initio* research system developments. That means working on developing weapon systems, weapon platforms within the country based on components and sub-systems all available indigenously. This is a very important part

of defence research in our view; it is the critical part of defence research. These are the activities which must be enhanced. This is where we need to spend more money. But I would also draw the attention of the House to the fact that there is another very important aspect of defence research which I would like to define as system integration. By system integration I mean putting together, marrying of sub-systems from all kinds of sources of all types, different sources, western sub-systems, eastern sub-systems and locally developed sub-systems, all merged and married together into one package and that package has to operate as an integral whole. This part of defence research is also a very critical component. I will elaborate a little further as to why I am making this distinction.

Concept of integration plus the concept of development together are synergistic. It is out of this combination that we can hope to develop defence products for future. There is no possibility, in my opinion, of our developing every single sub-system and sub-component indigenously for every single piece of equipment that we require. I do not think that any country in the world will try to do that. I think, that we, who are a developing country, have limitations of resources and we would be, in fact, reinventing the wheel time and time again, if we took that approach for everything. Therefore, we must look upon defence research as a combination of system development on the one hand and system integrations on the other.

One of the thing which is perhaps again not commonly known is that when we talk of defence research, we are talking about a field of activity which spends so much on diverse fields of activities. I would, in fact, take the indulgence of the House and list it. We deal with the following items and the following fields of research. We deal with aeronautics. We deal with rockets and missiles including propulsion. We deal with electronics and instrumentations. We deal with the combat vehicles, tracked and wheeled. We deal with Naval systems, surface and sub-surface. We deal with armament technologies, explosives' research, computer science, engineering research, raw materials science including metallurgy, food research, agricultural re-

search medical sciences, behavioural sciences, terrain research, work study and systems' analysis. Therefore, in other words, what I am trying to convey to the House, through you is that, we are spanning virtually the entire gamut of science and technology, as it is known in the world today. And one other factor which I believe is very critical is that, in attempting to do this, we must also be attempting at the same time too in certain of these fields to be at the cutting edge of science right up in front with the world leaders-in those specific fields-in those specific areas. We have been attempting over the past few years to share this sense of pride and the sense of achievement with the nation as a whole. We have been mounting exhibitions; we have been attempting public literature on this. And I am very pleased to convey Sir, that there has been a very good public reaction on this. I do feel that this effort should be expanded and we should do more on this. One of the proof of the putting in this particular case is that, I am very pleased to announce that we are fortunately now beginning to attract much larger numbers of young scientists to DRDO from our academic institutions. Mr. Datta, queried the figure that we have quoted in our Report of 1200 crores worth of accumulative production, separately, I will not take the time of the House. Separately, we will convey the proof to him. I trust that he would then be satisfied. Some of the very outstanding successes we have had that I would like to list. These are all fairly recent developments. So, we have developed a surveillance Radar which I would be in a position to say is among the best in the world, but I will not perhaps go that far, as to say it to the best available in the world today. On the communications front, we have an automatic electronic switch and a time division modular exchange entirely state of the art technology. We have an advanced panoramic hullmounted Sonar for the Navy which again, I think, I would not be wrong in saying is about the best available in the world today. We have developed night fighting equipments in this country of the type that not more than two or three countries in the world are in a position to build. These are areas at the cutting edge of science and we have had specific product successes in these areas. Apart from these, we have a very wide and long list of individual we have developed. I will quote some examples only. We have some of the

[Shri Arun Singh]

Members, I think Mr. Kumaramangalam made a reference to some of these. For example Shri Ayyapu Reddy mentioned about kinetic energy ammunition. Well, we have what is described as FSAPDS (Fin Stabilised Armour Piercing Discard Sabot Ammunition) is kinetic ammunition. We are again one of the very few countries in the world who are in a position to develop this because the science that has gone into that development, ranging from metallurgy to explosive sciences is very highly complex. Some other fields of interests would be for example, we are one of the few countries in the world who have built torpedos. We have developed very advanced torpedos for the Navy which are under manufacture. We are developing sea-mines. Very few countries could develop advanced sea-mines. We are in the process of developing mission simulators for fighter pilots. Again this is technology which not more than seven to ten countries in the world are in a position to develop. We are looking at advanced avionics, upgrades of the new aircraft that we are buying. In other words, the upgrades of aircraft which are coming into service now, or have just come into service. It will upgrade the system for the next decade.

In addition to these, I will of course make some reference to our normal sacred cows, as Mr. Amal Datta puts them—the Main Battle Tanks. While it is true that the tank is a prototype, and the prototypes are undergoing evaluation, perhaps the phraseology of the report could be corrected. I think, and I believe that the House would share my views, that if it is not yet the pride of the Army, certainly it should be the pride of our industries.

Perhaps I would share this information with the Members. There are 4 or 5 countries which have recently developed modern Main Battle Tanks. I will quote some examples to you :

The M. L. Abrams of the USA, i. e. the main battle tank in use now, expected to be in use till the '90s. It took them 17 years to develop that tank.

The Leopard, which is a German tank produced for their NATO forces. It took them 16 years to develop that tank.

The Challenger, the United Kingdom tank, the upgrade of G. II. It took them 13 years to develop that tank.

So, a time-scale ranging between 10 and 15 years, for the Main Battle Tank can be considered to be a very normal time-scale, more importantly in a country where we have never built a tank before. What we have built, certainly are tanks under licensed production systems. Therefore, the criticisms that specifically Mr. Amal Datta had made are, in my view, incorrect, and I refute them. (*Interruptions*)

In the process of developing these tanks I will give you some examples, some idea of what else has had to be developed when we made this type of tanks. We had to develop a gun of our own. We have developed the ammunition for that gun. We have developed the armour for that tank. We have developed and suspension system for our tank, which is entirely indigenous, and I will venture to say that it is about the best suspension system available in the world today. We have had to develop our own laser range finder. We have developed our own fire suppression system, within the tanks. We are also developing our own engine. It is true that we did run into some snags on the engines. We have, or are in the process of looking at imported engines, for the prototype; but I am pleased to inform you that we are on the schedule on the engine now; and when this tank goes into serious production, we will have an indigenous engine.

Another very important large project that we are working on, is the guided missile. It is tactical weapon, and not a strategic weapon. We are in the face of systems evaluation. These are very critical weapon systems. We have the weapon systems of the '90s.) and certainly of the 2000 A.D. We are working on all the three : surface to air anti-tank which is air to surface plus surface to surface. There, considerable development is taking place. This is aimed at dealing with threats which would arise in the next decade, and the decade after that—the State of the Art technologies. We are

working, and the Members would be interested to know this, in this project, e.g. very closely with academic institutions. Some of the best work that has been done on the missile programme for us has been done at the Universities in India; and this is a funded research by DRDO, with the Universities concerned fully involved, and the whole departments working on it. We are working at the moment on air-borne surveillance warning and control systems. We are expected to go into a technology demonstrator project shortly.

May I spend a little time on LCA? That seems to be attracting a lot of attention.

Probably, then there is some need to examine what we are talking about. What is the rationale behind this LCA? What is the strategy that we are using to put this rationale together? We believe and I think that there is an adequate experience, empirical experience in the world to suggest that aircrafts, as we know them, are basically coming to the end or virtually to the end of that possible extension of their utilization in terms of their flights enroute; and the world, in most cases, is now looking for new form of flights, new form of aerodynamics. For this, all kind of changes are required; new materials are required. Steel will not do any more; titanium will not do any more. New system of control, we will require; hydro-pneumatic control and so on is not going to work. New weapons will be required, because we are talking about an aircraft which will be so manoeuvrable that current weapon system would not be able to handle that manoeuvrability. In other words, when we are talking about LCA in this country, we are talking about a gamble. It is our estimation that in 1990 the Indian Air Force is going to require a large number of light combat aircrafts.

There is no doubt that we have an option, and the option before us is to do nothing today knowing that when a time comes, no doubt there will be some foreign supplier and that foreign supplier no doubt for the right price will supply this aircraft. The gamble that we are taking is that we feel, we believe that our experience so far

suggests that we have it in ourselves to build an aviation industry in this country; we, I think, have missed the opportunity before. Members would perhaps agree with me. I don't think we should just miss this opportunity again. But in saying that I say when we are looking for the opportunity for future, then we must look at it which will carry us into the year 2010. In other words, new materials, new technology, new control system and therefore, the rationale behind LCA is to, in a sense, bypass our current state of the art technology of aviation in this country, to go around it and to find ourselves up-front with three or four or five countries in the world who are in a position to develop a light combat aircraft.

Questions have been raised, I think, somewhat unfairly on what an indigenous aircraft is; I mean, for example, it has been said that, you know, we are thinking of importing a radar system, and therefore, it cannot possibly be an indigenous aircraft. How can for an indigenous aircraft we import radar? I think this is somewhat unfair; and here I would like to refer back to the role I have mentioned earlier of Defence Research; one of the roles they have is an integrated system. It is quite likely that we will not be able to develop every single sub-system that goes into LCA; we will develop the main sub-system; some we will have to import. But the responsibility will be on us to integrate an important sub-system along with our indigenously developed sub-system to make a weapons package or weapons platform; that is the state of the art.

Questions have been asked about our engine; and there has been some comment in the Press too about a possible change or a proposal, whatever you may call it, of importing an engine from the United States of America or Britain or whatever. I would like to confirm that we intend to fit the LCA with indigenous engine at a time when the LCA goes into this production. However, since we will have to fly prototype, fairly a large number of prototypes, we will have to give it first to fly ourselves in terms of test and evaluation; then give it to the Airforce to fly, to test it. For the prototype air-

[Shri Arun Singh]

crafts, we may require to import an engine. The objective we have is to develop our own engine; we have developed an engine. It has not some of the specifications that we need. There are certain very critical parameters of that engine which will need to be improved; certain performance parameters need to be improved, certain technologies will have to be improved which is what is going to take us some time. However, in concept terms, we are talking about an indigenous LCA with an indigenous engine.

I think a little bit more detail on this project in terms of our organisational structure and so on, perhaps, is warranted. We are dealing with certain technologies which have been developed and which are matters of interest, like composite materials, digital fly-by-wire control systems, multi-mode radar, digital cockpit technology, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture. These technologies and capabilities had existed in some measure in various places and various establishments in India like for example, HAL, DRDO itself and CSIR, laboratories, and certain universities, the Indian Institute of Science and so on.

We have established, therefore, what we call the Aeronautical Development Agency to integrate this work, to integrate these capabilities. This ADA does not in any way supplant these capabilities. It is merely a catalytic project management organisation which will pull back under these various streams under various heads into one composite whole.

There has been quite a lot of discussion in the Press recently about this project,—most of it unfortunately is occasioned by the gentleman who has now left the project. I would only like to say that about the point which Shri Amal Datta has raised which I want to make very very clear, and there is no comparison at all between the advanced jet trainer and a light combat aircraft.

When we talk about an advanced jet trainer it is an aircraft which is intended for

primary training in advanced fighters of the young pilots. The LCA will require to be flown by some of veterans, experienced pilots. The two have not been equalled. And, therefore, the concept that one should automatically lead us to build an advanced jet trainer is entirely incorrect. It does not share the same material, it does not share the same flying systems, it does not share the same avionics, it does not share the same control systems, it does not share the same weapons system.

R & D project, as I have already mentioned, for Defence Research has a three-tier structure. I will give an example of certain systems where all the three tiers have worked, being simultaneously in their own way all the three being meshed into one. For example, we have what we call the 'Aron' programme for Army communication, Army Radio Engineered Network. Here, everybody was together. The Army, the Production Unit, the Defence Research and Development—all work as one to produce the programme.

For the Air Force, we have ADGES, Air Defence Ground Environment System. Here again, we have all the three agencies which will come together and still remain as one.

For the Navy we have a Naval Communication Project, where similarly all the three agencies are working together.

In fact, Hon. Members may be interested to know that the tallest structure—towering structure—in the country today is now in Tamil Nadu—no longer in Bombay—that is the Naval Communication Project.

Having touched upon these fairly well-known projects, I would like to crave your indulgence to discuss about a few which are not so well-known, where again I can give an example of meshing together of all the Defence establishments takes place, namely, the user, the Army and the Navy, the Air Force, Defence Research and Defence Production.

Shri Ayyapu Reddy mentioned about Siahin and the high Himalayas and complications of living and fighting in the high Hima-

layas. It has to be seen to be believed, that the most inhospitable terrain known to man anywhere on the earth—it is worse than that known to any society anywhere in the country. Because apart from everything else, there is the problem of the altitude and oxygen starvation. For the high Himalayas, for example, we have an integrated research programme. Through the process of that integrated programme we have done some experiments. We have developed our own high altitude clothing, combat clothing, adequate to be sought in. We have developed highly sophisticated food preservation and packaging techniques. We are in the process of developing systems to evaluate snowfall and forecast avalanches. We have had to develop communication technologies which will operate in those environments, weapon technology. We have looked at housing, shelter. We have even looked at physiological problems, human problems, what is mountain sickness, what is pulmonary oedema. We even have to look at psychological problems—what happens when you leave him alone in the company of two or three men at 20,000 ft. for four nights at minus 70 degrees. We have to look at transportation system—what system works at those altitudes.

Exactly similarly we take the desert which is the exact opposite—I mean, if there is a possible opposite to the Himalayas, it is the desert. We have to live and fight in the desert also. There again similar technologies have been developed. We even have to develop technologies of water desalination. And even more important in the context of Rajasthan. We have to develop technologies for water defluoridation because fluoride in water is a big problem.

We have some of the most incredibly specialised medical facilities available in India today. We deal with everything ranging from treatment of high third degree burns to cancer. Many of these technologies are of direct relevance to the civilian world. Why I call it the civilian world being in the Ministry of Defence, is, because I do believe that we have not done enough yet to marry these two together. I think, in many countries—in fact, probably in most of the countries—the defence research is the catalyst which leads to development in the non-defence world.

We have started work on this. We are now in the process of transferring of technologies in fields which are as disparate as metallurgy, communications, high altitude animal husbandry, plant genetics. And this process will have to continue.

There is a view, I think, shared by quite a few Members present here, that we should be spending more on defence systems. While I concur with this view in principle, I also want to draw your attention to the fact that it is not just the money that matters. It is the ability that matters: It is the ability to optimise that money. We started from very humble beginning. We are now in the process of going through 50 per cent increase in one year, from something like Rs. 300 crores last year to Rs. 450 crores this year. We will need time to absorb this. But there is no dispute whatsoever in my mind that these investments will have to be stopped up. We are now in the process of looking at various new possibilities. We are looking at concepts, for example, something called enabling technology centres. Can we in the Defence be the catalyst for enabling technologies in semi-conductors devices, for example? Can we be the catalyst in lasers—I am not talking of star war or SDI, but I am talking of laser in more simplistic terms—but with application in medicine, with application in communication for beyond anything that the defence sector would need? We are looking at possibilities of releasing transfer of technology, how do we move technologies even within our own country from the Department of Defence Research and Development to the defence production units? Is there any way we can improve upon this? How do we move technologies in licence production? In licence production, the most interesting thing that happens is that licence production technology gets transferred to the producer, to the factory. And we need actually to transfer those technologies to the research lab because it is research lab that will assimilate those technologies and build on them the future. Very importantly we are looking at methods of increasing the interaction that we have with the academic institutions of this country.

Shri Amal Datta has returned in time for me to deal with one of his queries. There is no doubt whatsoever that one of the most

[Shri Arun Singh]

critical assets that we can hope to build is manpower. Scientific manpower, both in quantity and quality, is our potential strength. The problem that we have, and which I think is a purely common sort of Indian problem, is to get this together, is to organise this manpower. We are now in the process of reviewing this. We are attempting to enlist cooperation of universities and similar institutions, I mean, Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Science, TIFR and so on and so forth, through supporting them by paying for their programmes of fundamental research and also programmes of applied research. We are hoping to develop and hold together a pool of trained manpower within the Ministry of Defence. I am not restricting it to the Department of Defence Research but within the Ministry of Defence, and also by orient re-training of our own scientists. We have found, for example, that it is not always possible to find, let us say, the electronics men in certain disciplines but you can take physics men and re-train them into electronics men. So, that kind of reorientation we want. We attach very great importance to this process because we believe, as one of the speakers has said earlier this evening, that too much of our talent leaves us, too much of our talent goes abroad. It is just one thing for them to go abroad and then our asking them to come back. My view is that it is much better that they never leave in the first place, and to do that we need to pose before them the scientific and technological challenges of the type which will match their requirements of job satisfaction, in that sense of the word, which gives them the impression that they are participating in nation building because that is the kind of satisfaction which is only available in certain restricted fields of activity. We will also naturally have to provide them wherewithals in terms of their material comforts. In terms of our policies for recruitment and promotion, I am very pleased to inform Mr. Datta that I am as distressed by the concept of *ad hoc* as he is. We have now come to the stage where we have brought it down very sharply. In one year, we have reduced this *ad hoc* business by more than 50 per cent. I hope that by the end of this exercise, we will, more or less, be able to eliminate *ad hoc* in terms of recruitment. Also I want to high-light

another particular evil—which I think is an evil—and that is the concept of vacancy-based promotion because here again, if a man does good job and does well, he should be rewarded. We will have in the DRDO, a flexible system where reward is given to those who deserve it.

One very important feature which has featured even today and which has been a regular feature of discussion both in the Press and Parliament, is the international cooperation. Cooperation in defence research, surprisingly perhaps, is a quite common feature. It is a very normal kind of twentieth century global phenomenon. We have bilateral arrangements with certain governments—Governments of France, Poland, Italy. We are looking for bilateral arrangements with few other countries. We also have signed the memorandum of understanding of high technology with United States of America and have been discussing with them cooperation on certain technologies... (*Interruptions*). We will consider U.S. sources for those technologies along with other sources in what we consider to be in the best interest of the development that we are looking forward. However, I would like very categorically to make a clear distinction between cooperation on technology and the purchase of arms. I also would like to state absolutely categorically that we have not approached the United States Government for any arms purchases, either outright purchases or in terms of licensed production. I would like to say further, Sir, that we have not even discussed the purchase of any weapon system, if that would clarify the Hon. Member's doubts.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is all right, I have no personal knowledge.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : I am just making the point. Unfortunately you came late. I am clearing up your confusion or your doubt on this point. Sir, I am sorry I have taken so much time. I am most grateful to Hon. Members for giving me this opportunity. I would touch on the subject of the National Test Range at Balasore, Orissa. May I start by saying that it is a national facility and it is not merely a defence facility? It could be used both by the Department of Space and the Department of Defence.

I would like to assure the House that the site has been selected after very, very careful scrutiny and the only criterion that is counted happens to be its geographical location. Hon. Members will be interested to know this. Mr. Shivraj Patil is here. The Department of Space has a programme for Polar Satellite Launch somewhere towards 1990. Members will be interested to know that the launch from this site, compared to existing sites, will add very significantly to the satellite payload because of a massive reduction in the engine range. It is only the best geographical location.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Away from the Equator.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : I am merely making a point. I am just making a fundamental point. It is a fact which I am putting across, Sir, every effort will be made to minimise any hardship which may be caused to the citizens who may be displaced. Both the Government of India and the Orissa Government will work together in regard to the rehabilitation programmes or resettlement programmes.

I am confident that Members present here and the House and the country as a whole will recognise the importance of this particular facility in the nation's interest and will give it their support.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope that hon. Members will share my view that we are proud of the contributions that are made by the DRDO and are conscious of the very large challenges that lie ahead of them. 30,600 odd employees will be managing and working with the Budget Estimates of something of the order of Rs. 427 crores in the year 1986-87. In this process they will be handling tasks and objectives of vital national significance and relevance. I wish the House to join me in wishing them all success in their endeavours.

18.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
April 8, 1986/Chaitra 18,
1908 (Saka).*