

Shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Arai

4613. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Indian Army at present;

(b) by when, the shortage is likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government have decided to prune the size of the Army in order to make up for the shortage; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: (a) to (c) At present there is a shortage of 13,323 officers and of 38,000 personnel below officers ranks in the Army. Approximately 71,000 recruits are currently under training, and hence the deficiency of personnel below officers rank is notional.

2. Various measures have been initiated to make up the shortage in the officer cadre in the Army, such as University Entry Scheme, exemption from appearing in Combined Defence Service Examination for NCC 'C' certificate holders for induction as Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO), induction of women as officers, promotion of service JCOs/ORs into the newly created Special Commissioned Officer (SCO) cadre. An Image Projection Campaign was launched during 1997-98 with the assistance of professional advertising agency. Second Phase of the campaign has been approved.

3. Implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of defence services has resulted in improved pay scales, allowances and concessions to Armed Forces personnel. It is expected that the cumulative effect of all the measures will result in higher intake, making up the shortfall in the vacancies to a considerable extent in the near future.

4. The Army has formulated a plan for effecting under-posting of 50,000 personnel till 31-3-99. This will be done in a phased manner covering all types of units and formations. The financial savings generated would help modernise the Army in some measure. This exercise has been planned in such a manner that there will be no adverse effect on the defence preparedness of the country.

सैनिक स्कूल

4614 श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क)गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान त्रिपुरा और मध्य प्रदेश राज्यों में स्थापित किए गए सैनिकों स्कूलों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख)क्या उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान अहमदाबाद और भुज में एक भी सैनिक स्कूल की स्थापना नहीं की गई;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ)क्या अहमदाबाद और भुज में सैनिक स्कूल खोले जाने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ङ.)यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीस) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में रीवा में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1962 से चल रहा है त्रिपुरा राज्य में कोई सैनिक स्कूल नहीं है। त्रिपुरा के विद्यार्थी मणिपुर, इम्फाल में कार्यरत सैनिक स्कूल में प्रवेश पाने के लिए पात्र हैं।

(ख)से (ङ.) गुजरात राज्य में बालाचड़ी में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1961 से चल रहा है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में कहीं भी कोई भी सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित नहीं किया गया है।

गुजरात राज्य सरकार से भुज या अहमदाबाद अथवा राज्य में किसी भी अन्य स्थान पर नहीं हुआ है।

Joint Indo-US army-naval exercise

4615. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report

appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 13th July, 1998, regarding the proposed army and naval exercises between India and the US which have been put on hold following nuclear tests but those with Pakistan will be held as scheduled next months, as per Washington Post report;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/ proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the underground nuclear explosions undertaken by India on May 11 and 13, 1998 the spokesman, of the US Department of Defence announced cessation of all military exchanges and training exercises with India. In the light of this announcement, no armed force or defence-related exchanges with the USA, including joint naval exercises, are anticipated in the foreseeable future, the daily "Washington Post" has allegedly reported that US military exercises with Pakistan will take place as scheduled in August, 1998. Government of India will take a view on the resumption of military exchanges and exercises with USA after it takes the initiative to re-establish all streams of defence cooperation with India.

Think Tank Organisation

4616, SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(A) the number of think tank organisations India have on national security on the lines of USA, which has a developed think tank culture regarding strategic planning relevant to national security and at China, which has been able to develop strong think tanks;

(b) the name of Indian think tank organisations, their functions and area of operation;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to further promote the think tank organisations relevant to national security; even in non-Governmental organisations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are numerous organisations in India which focus on national security matters wholly or in part including the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), the United Services Institution of India, the Forum for Strategic and Security Studies, the Centre for Policy Research, the Institute for Chinese Studies, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government endeavour to encourage the activities of think tank organisations through several deliberate measures such as financial assistance, promoting linkages with counterpart organisations, involvement in events like seminars and symposia, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian defence cooperation

4617. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have finalised a new 10th Year defence cooperation agreement; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the new cooperation agreement, especially relating to hardware supplies, technology transfer and joint ventures?