

Recruitment of Women in Indian armed forces

*20. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the various schemes for recruitment of women in the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and other paramilitary forces in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): The schemes of recruitment of women in certain specified Branches-Corps of the Armed Forces as Short Service Commission Officers was approved on 9.10.91 in respect of Navy, on 25.11.91 in respect of the Air Force and on 30.1.92 in respect of the Army initially for a period of 5 years on an experimental basis. In the case of the Technical branches of the Air Force, their term of engagement was fixed initially as three years. Government has also approved the scheme for induction of women in the Coast Guard in January, 1996 for an initial period of 3 years on an experimental basis. The scheme has been extended till 2002 A.D. for the Army and the non-technical ground duty officers in the Air Force and till 2005 A.D. for the Flying Branch and technical branches in the Air Force

2. For the present, non-combatant role has been envisaged for the women officers. Recruitment of women officers has now been approved in the following branches/departments of the Armed Forces:

Army: Army Postal service, Judge Advocate General's department, Army Education Corps, Army Ordnance Corps (Central Ammunition Depots and Material Management), Army Service Corps (Food Scientist and Catering, Officers Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Regiment of Artillery.

Navy: Education, Logistics, Law Cadres and the Executive Branch for Air Traffic Control duties.

Air Force: Non-Technical Ground duty Branches, namely, Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education and Meteorology; Technical Branches; Flying Pilots (Transport & Helicopter streams). Navigation Branches.

Coast Guard: Assistant Commandant (General Duty) (Administration and Logistic duties). Assistant Commandant (Law) and Assistant Commandant (GD—Pilot).

Indianisation of Military Bands

1. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's military bands will soon start playing Indian tunes and using Indian musical instruments;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing new instruments from abroad;

(c) the names of the Indian instruments which would be used in these bands and the time-frame for the complete Indianisation of military music;

(d) whether Government are considering complete Indianisation of tunes and instruments in India's military bands; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian military bands are already playing many Indian marching tunes on musical instruments of Western origin. It is proposed to add more such tunes. The standard pattern of Military bands all over the world strictly comprises three sections namely the Woodwind, Brass and the percussion. Martial music of any form has been composed and arranged only for this group of in-