

Quality of food supplied to soldiers

3104. PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of food supplied to soldiers in their messes is neither wholesome, good, nor in full scale in respect of all the items;

(b) if so, the number of times the grievance was raised by the soldiers and what action was taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the quality of food to the soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. All food items supplied to the troops conform to the Army Service Corps specifications, formulated after consultation with health and nutrition experts, food scientists and other concerned experts. Random samples are periodically taken and analysed in the Composite Food Laboratories installed at key locations. The condition of food items during storage is duly monitored by responsible Army officers. The process of cooking is supervised by the House Commander of the unit concerned. Rations are issued as per prescribed scales which are scientifically calculated to fully meet the requirements of the human body to maintain it at the peak of physical strength, stamina, efficiency and health. These scales constitute a balanced mix of protein, carbohydrates, fat, minerals and vitamins which in fact provide for a higher level of nutrition than those recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(b) Some anonymous/pseudonymous complaints were received in the Army Headquarters which could not be substantiated.

(c) Improvements in the quality of food are a continuous process. Necessary measures are taken from time to time to introduce more variety in the ration scales and standards of cooking and catering.

Diversification in Defence P.S.Us.

3105. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH
PANDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken a decision for diversification of production in all defence public sector undertakings and ordnance factories in a big way including for export purposes;

(b) if so, whether the HAL and BEL have started manufacturing, servicing and overhaul of civilian aircraft and the BEL expanded its role in telecom, medical electronics, etc.;

(c) whether 22 per cent of the sales of ordnance factories in 1993-94, were made to non-defence customers;

(d) if so, to what extent diversification of defence production units has affected the production of arms for the defence forces;

(e) whether before issuing any directives on diversification of defence undertakings, Government have ensured that it should in no way affect the defence production in the country; and

(f) if so, to what extent defence public sector undertakings and ordnance factories have earned more profits in 1993-94 than the corresponding period of previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The defence production units have established certain capacities to manufacture equipment and stores for the armed forces to levels of demand in peace and war. However, peace time demand levels, as also budgetary constraints, result in orders from the armed forces which do not always match the production capacities established. For utilisation of the spareable capacities and skills, after meeting the requirements of defence forces, the defence production