

दिया है कि रक्षा सौदे में एजेंटों से बचना मुमकिन नहीं है और उनकी नियुक्ति की विधिवत व्यवस्था पर विचार होना चाहिए। तो मैं इस संबंध में आपके माध्यम से सम्मानीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार ने एजेंटों की नियुक्ति के लिए क्या कोई नियम बनाए हैं या सरकार केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग की संस्तुति के अनुसार रक्षा सामान खरीद रही है?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, the new Defence Procurement Policy was adopted after going through the guidelines of the CVC, the CAG and also the Standing Committees. So, we have gone through everything.

The new procedure is adopted as per the guidelines only. So, we are concerned about the transparency, but the present Policy categorically says that there is no middleman in it.

Fratricide among armed forces

*205. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in which areas majority of cases of fratricide among armed forces had taken place during the recent years;

(b) whether Government have gone into the causes of such cases;

(c) the steps taken to improve service conditions of the armed personnel, posted in disturbed areas;

(d) whether it is a fact that lack of social security to the families of soldiers has led them to take such extreme step; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the welfare measures for their families?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Most of the recent cases of fratricide among Armed Forces have taken place in Jammu & Kashmir and the North East region where Army is engaged in counter insurgency operations.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by [Shri Santosh Bagrodia].

Courts of Inquiry (COI) are ordered after each incident to ascertain the causes. Generally, the factors attributed to these killings are:

- (a) Perceived grievances due to harassment by seniors.
- (b) Argument(s) between colleagues.

Various administrative and welfare measures have been taken to prevent such incidents. These include:

- (i) Study by Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Delhi to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures.
- (ii) Impart training to Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to act as counsellors in sensitive areas.
- (iii) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;
- (iv) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;
- (v) Liberalised leave policy to attend to domestic problems;
- (vi) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders;
- (vii) Counselling by religious teachers;
- (viii) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required;
- (ix) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/ meditation;
- (x) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

These measures are being monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized to the above issues.

Government have also decided to strengthen the Zilla Sainik Boards (ZSBs) to make them more responsive to the problems and difficulties of the soldiers and their families and establish a network so that the problems

of families of soldiers are intimidated to the ZSBs who may follow up the matter with the concerned civil authorities. The nearest nominated unit also should be in touch with ZSBs and give feed back to the unit of the soldier.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the brave soldiers of our country have to live in very difficult conditions in the border areas. They are far away from their families for months and months together. In that situation, we have to sensitise our Officers also. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that in the case of a recent suicide by a Lt. Colonel, the bereaved family has blamed the Commanding Officer. Has the Army looked into such allegations? Will the Government also consider involving local media in projecting a positive image of the Armed Forces?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. member for expressing concern for the well being of our soldiers. Regarding the particular recent case in Kashmir, the Government is very serious to know the truth about it. That is why two inquiries are going on—one is by Armed Forces and apart from that we are now conducting an inquiry by police also. We will be able to know the truth after the inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Once the outcome is there, we will take serious action.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. What steps are being taken by the Government to sensitise the district and State level bureaucracy about the constraints faced by the families of the soldiers? And also, will the Government consider giving certain reservation to the immediate family members of non-commissioned soldiers and JCOs in the Centrally-sponsored employment schemes like PMRY, REGP, KBIC, SGSRY, etc.?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, the hon. Member's question is very important as far as our Jawans are concerned. Our Jawans are also human beings. Now they are working in very difficult situations in the insurgency areas especially J&K and the North-East. At home, they have families. And in joint families they have the support of the other family members. Now there are only nuclear families. There are problems like property disputes and other financial disputes. So, the State Governments must also take more interest. Already we are taking steps for that. I am going to write to the Chief Ministers to take more urgent steps to redress the grievances of the families of Jawans.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that in his reply given on 22nd November, he has talked about six cases of fratricide in September, 2006. While in today's reply, he has said 'more recent cases'; there is no specific number. Earlier he only talked about Jammu and Kashmir. Today he has talked about Jammu and Kashmir and the entire North-East. I would like to bring to his notice, with your permission, Sir, that in the Times of India of 30th October, there was an article, which says 200 cases of violence have been there in ranks since 2002. Sir, the number is rather alarming. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister, if he could tell us, what are the factual numbers, and if he has implemented all these programmes, what result have they given in the last few months or will give in the years to come in improving the situation for the fratricide.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, my earlier answer was about the recent incidents in J&K. Six incidents were there, two Officers and seven Jawans were killed. The present answer is about the whole area that includes J&K and also the North-East. The total number this year is 23—three Officers, four Junior Officers and sixteen Jawans. It is about the whole area that includes J&K and the entire North-East. The Government is taking serious steps to arrest this tendency. After taking over, I convened a meeting of the Army Officers and other people concerned and after that meeting we have appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of the Director of DPIP. He was asked to give his report within two months. Once we get that report, we will take serious action on the implementation of that report.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. The hon. Minister has suggested several measures in his reply to avoid such mishaps. I would like to know from the hon. Minister for how long these measures have been in existence. I would like to know whether they are adequate and effective. By being effective and adequate, can I take it that this kind of mishaps will never happen hereafter?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, these measures were there all along. After my taking over, I had a meeting and after that I instructed them to be more liberal on leave. Now they have changed the leave policy. Now to the maximum extent, they will try to accommodate the request from the Jawans. They have also agreed to relax certain conditions to give casual leave and annual leave and about other things we will take decision once I get the report.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Let all these things be taken care of. Will it be effective and adequate? That is the point I would like to know.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: We are very particular that we must take effective and adequate steps. We must redress the grievance of the *jawans*. That is why I asked the Committee that they must give the report within two months. Once I get the report, we will start implementing the report.

प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अंतर्गत झारखंड को निधि का आवंटन

*206. **श्री अजय मारू:** क्या ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के तहत झारखंड को कितनी राशि आवंटित की गयी है;

(ख) इसमें से कितनी राशि का उपयोग हुआ है; और

(ग) झारखंड में इस योजना की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): (क) झारखंड राज्य को अक्टूबर, 2006 तक नियमित प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अंतर्गत 890.00 करोड़ रु और विश्व बैंक से सहायता प्राप्त प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अंतर्गत 75.00 करोड़ रु आवंटित किए गए हैं।

(ख) कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत अक्टूबर, 2006 तक रिलीज किए गए 504.41 करोड़ रु में से 434.26 करोड़ रु का व्यय हुआ है।

(ग) अब तक स्वीकृत परियोजनाओं का कुल मूल्य 633.03 करोड़ रु है। 3362.37 कि०मी० लम्बाई के 629 सड़क कार्य मंजूर किए गए हैं जिनमें से 2367 कि०मी० लम्बाई के 447 सड़क कार्य पूरे हो चुके हैं। 995 कि०मी० लम्बाई के 182 सड़क कार्य प्रगति पर हैं।

Fund under PMGSY to Jharkhand

†*206. **SHRI AJAY MAROO:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been allocated to the State of Jharkhand under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) the amount utilized out of the said amount; and

(c) the current status of the said scheme in Jharkhand?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.