

New pension scheme for ex-servicemen

1994.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is likely to implement new pension scheme for ex-servicemen;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) There is presently no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) New pension scheme was not made applicable to Armed Forces due to certain attributes specific to the Armed Forces such as harsh working conditions, performance of duties even under risks, early retirement age etc.

Maintenance of Sukhoi fighter planes

1995.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for crash of Sukhoi fighter plane, hitherto considered to be safest among the IAF fleet;
- (b) whether it is due to any serious problem in maintenance of aircraft by IAF, or due to short supply of hardware; and
- (c) what corrective steps have been taken, or are being taken to stop recurrence of any such mishap?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The preliminary investigation into the accident reveal that the reason for the crash of the Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force, is the likely failure of the Fly-by-Wire system. There is no indication of any serious problem in maintenance of aircraft by the IAF or any short supply of hardware as the cause of the crash. Each accident is investigated through a Court of Inquiry (COI) and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence in future.

Opening of Kargil and Siachen for tourists

†1996. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to open strategic and inaccessible areas like Kargil and Siachen for the tourists in the coming time;
- (b) if so, whether Government has conducted any study to see that our security forces will not have to face any problem as a result thereof; and
- (c) the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.