

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Government had promised to examine the One Rank One Pension issue within a specified timeframe.

(b) and (c) Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension and related issues has submitted its report recommending the following benefits to substantially improve the pension for the Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) and Commissioned Officers:-

- (i) Inclusion of Classification Allowance for PBOR from 1.1.2006.
- (ii) Removal of linkage of full pension with 33 years from 1.1.2006.
- (iii) Revision of Lieutenant General pension after carving out a separate pay scale for them.
- (iv) Bringing parity between pension of pre and post 10.10.1997 PBOR pensioners and
- (v) Further improving PBOR pensions based on award of Group of Ministers, 2006.
- (vi) Broad banding of percentage of disability/war injury pension for pre 1.1.1996 disability/war injury pension and removal of cap on war injury element of pension in the case of disabled pensioners belonging to Category E.

Recommendation of Rama Rao Committee on DRDO

1214. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently set up a Committee to go into the recommendation of the Rama Rao Committee and suggest restructuring of the DRDO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the recommendations of the Rama Rao Committee have been accepted by the Government; and

(d) whether DRDO has not achieved the target of research in the past few years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government, under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary, has recently constituted a committee to look into the responses and suggestions made by the various stake holders on the recommendations of Rama Rao Committee.

(d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has equipped Armed Forces with state-of-the-art technologies in the field of strategic systems, electronic warfare and communication systems, combat vehicles, armour and armaments, naval systems, life support systems, missile systems, etc. During the past, DRDO has developed a number of systems/technologies/products worth about Rs.60,000 crore, which have been/are being inducted into Armed Forces. There has been delays in some of the DRDO projects due to some genuine

difficulties, like technical complexity, technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes, non-availability of infrastructure within the country, extended user trials, revision of systems specifications during development phase, etc. DRDO has taken remedial measures to complete the ongoing projects on time.

New Ammunition Stores

1215. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of ammunition presently lying in open plinth and non-conforming accommodation, if any; and
- (b) the storage accommodation planning for the new ammunition stores planned to be acquired in next five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Approximately 85,000 MT of ammunition pertaining to Army is presently lying in open plinth/temporary accommodation. No ammunition is presently lying in open plinth and in non-confirming area in Navy and Air Force establishments. Capacity enhancement for storage of ammunition is an on-going process. However, there is no shortage of accommodation envisaged for Ammunition Stores in case of Air Force.

Disposal of Unserviceable Ammunitions in Defence Stores

1216. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of defence ammunition in stores that are unserviceable and awaiting disposal in the three services;
- (b) how much space in these stores have been occupied that can be vacated on its disposal; and
- (c) whether any R&D effort is being made for devising a suitable and safe disposal technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Presently, 300 MT and 3127.5 MT of unserviceable ammunition with the Navy and the Army respectively are awaiting disposal. No such ammunition is lying with Air Force.

(b) In the Naval Armament Depots unserviceable stores are occupying about 250 Light Ton (1 LT=40 cubic feet) of space, which can be vacated on its disposal. In Army, most of the unserviceable stores is kept in the open holding and would not impact the permanent storage of serviceable ammunition.

(c) There are standard procedures which are meticulously followed to ensure safe disposal of such ammunition. However Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES) has undertaken a project on demilitarization based on plasma pyrolysis, which will meet all safety and environmental standards and will be able to address all types of ammunition presently being held in the Army.

Pension to Ex-Servicemen with less than fifteen years of service

1217. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: