

2. Special concessions in recruitment:

(i) Wards of serving/retired/deceased Air Force personnel are given weightage for recruitment as Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs). These candidates are exempted from shortlisting and permitted to appear in Recruitment Rallies.

(ii) Wards of retired naval personnel are given upper age relaxation apart from a relaxation of marks.

A Naval personnel/his widow can sponsor one candidate per batch and get maximum of two candidates enrolled in Navy during his life time *i.e.* during service/after retirement.

Sons of Naval personnel under battle casualties/battle accidents/sea/air raid casualties who satisfy all eligibility conditions are given instant enrolment as Matric recruits and Non matric recruits (MR & NMR) provided they qualify in written/PFT and Medical. Such candidates are also entitled for relaxation in upper age upto a maximum of 12 months.

(iii) In Army, following relaxations are being given to sons of Ex-servicemen for recruitment in to the Army as Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs):-

(a) Physical Relaxations:

Height (Cms)	Chest (Cms)	Weight (Kgs)
2	1	2

(b) Bonus Marks: 20 marks as Bonus are awarded to only one son of Ex-servicemen, Ward Widow and Widow of Ex-servicemen.

One son/brother of Battle Casualty is eligible for Instant Enrolment as Soldier GD in the Army through respective Regimental Centres provided he fulfills the laid down conditions of Age, Educational, Physical and Medical Qualifications.

Unit Headquarters Quota of enrolment at the Regimental Centres is primarily for sons of serving Soldiers & Ex-servicemen. 20% of total vacancies are allotted to the Regimental Centres to facilitate enrolment of sons of Serving Soldiers and Ex-servicemen.

INSAS rifles to soldiers

□1982. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that INSAS rifles, being provided to soldiers for country's defence, are not effective;

(b) if so, whether these rifles were thoroughly tested before providing them to soldiers;

□ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to provide soldiers with new technology rifles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The INSAS rifle was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based on Army's Qualitative Requirements. It was inducted into the Army after extensive trials in the year 1996-1997. Since inception, design of rifle, has undergone five modifications as per user's requirement to make it more user-friendly. The Ordnance Factory Board is supplying INSAS rifles duly proved and accepted by the Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), an agency designated by the Defence Forces. The rifle tested for its quality, safety and strength, operational requirements and other rigorous tests as per the stipulated standards laid down by DGQA.

(c) and (d) With the change in the operational environment and to keep pace with new technology, Qualitative Requirements for a New Generation Assault Rifle of current technology have been spelt out by the Army.

Security checks in the southern coastal areas

1983. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently directed the Navy and Coast Guard to maintain a high state of alert in the Southern Coastal areas;

(b) if so, whether illegal infiltration from the Southern Coastal areas have increased in the past few months;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Navy and Coast Guard have maintained security checks in the Southern Coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The Indian Navy (IN) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) always remain in a state of readiness to protect the country's coastal waters, including thwarting any attempt at infiltration. While no specific report about any illegal infiltration from the southern coastline of the country has been received, the coastal waters of the country are guarded by the ICG and the IN in coordination with the State Police and other agencies like Customs through various means including aerial surveillance, maritime patrolling etc.

Procedural delays in Defence Procurements

1984. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Minister acknowledged need to keep pace with changing technology and system as pointed out that there was a need to cut red tape and procedural delays in country's procurement mechanism for the armed forces;