

Setting up of rural banks in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh

1194. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to set up rural banks in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether similar banks are proposed to be set up in Himachal Pradesh also; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that its Steering Committee on Regional Rural Banks has recently cleared proposals for setting up of two Regional Rural Banks in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, covering (i) Pithoragarh and (ii) Dehradun, Uttar Kashi and Tehri Garhwal and one Regional Rural Bank covering district Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.

The recommendations of the Steering Committee are yet to be received by the Government.

Lowering of age limit for enrolment in the Air Force and the Navy

1195. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the reduction in the minimum age for enrolment in the Army, Government also propose to lower the age limit for enrolment in the Air Force and the Navy and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Sir.

(b) In the Army the minimum age of recruitment has been reduced from 17 to 16 to attract larger number of

recruits. No such need has been felt in the Air Force or Navy.

Supply of submarines to Bangladesh by China

1196. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China has decided to supply submarines to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what will be its impact from India's defence point of view?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Government have no authoritative information on the reported supply of six submarines to Bangladesh by China.

(b) This possibility will be kept in view while formulating our own plan for defence preparedness.

Stagnation in the post of State Investigators in the D.M.IS. Army Headquarters

1197. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Investigators in the DMIS (erstwhile) Army Statistical Organisation Army Headquarters have been working in the scale of pay of RS. 550-900 for more than 13 to 21 years and are stagnating for want of further Promotional avenues;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether State Investigators are performing technical duties along with report writing of the projects and administration, etc whereas their counterparts ACSO of clerical cadre are also working in the same organisation and are drawing scale of pay Rs. 650—1200; and

(d) if so, whether any action is being taken to bring them at par with their counterparts on the non-technical side both in the scale of pay as well as in their duties and status?