

#### **Revival of Hindustan shipyard limited**

4343.SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam is one of the oldest and the largest public sector shipyards in the country;
- (b) if so, whether its accumulated losses are to the tune of Rs.856.23 crores and negative net worth of Rs.706.82 crores, which are a major concern;
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to revive the shipyard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) as on 31.3.2009 has accumulated losses of Rs.987.43 crores and the negative net worth of Rs.685.44 crores.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Defence is processing a proposal for financial restructuring of HSL in consultation with the Shipyard.

#### **Shortage of officers in army**

4344. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of officers in the Armed forces;
- (b) the present strength of officers in the Army;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are about 11,000 posts of officers lying vacant in the Army;
- (d) whether Government proposes to open new Officers Training Academy (OTA) at Gaya in Bihar and one in Chennai;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) by when these OTAs will be set up and made functional; and
- (g) the other major long term steps taken/being taken by Government to address the shortage of officers in the army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) The sanctioned strength of officers is 46,614 in Army, 9,293 in Navy and 12,212 in Air Force. The present strength of officers in Army is 35,158 and around 11,500 posts are vacant.

One Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai is already functional. The Government has approved setting up of a second OTA at Gaya, Bihar. Necessary steps have been initiated to make the Academy functional.

A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces, is expected to make the Services more attractive.

The Armed Forces have also undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

#### **Merger of HSL with Indian navy**

4345. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not completing the process of the merger of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) of Visakhapatnam with Indian Navy even after four years;
- (b) the total period and amount of arrears of salaries due as on today to workers of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam;
- (c) whether the arrears of salaries shall be paid to the workers; and
- (d) if so, the time by when arrears of salaries shall be paid to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Government already transferred HSL, which was earlier under the Ministry of Shipping to the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence by way of amendment of the Allocation of Business Rules on 23rd February, 2010.