

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether recommendations have been adopted in all the three defence services particularly the Navy;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether in Army an officer after being commissioned is promoted to Colonel after 15 and half years while in Navy after 19 years; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (f) The Ajay Vikram Singh Committee made recommendations encompassing a wide spectrum of service related issues to address the twin aspects of reducing the high age profile and improving cadre mobility of officers. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a number of measures have been implemented for the three Services with some variations to meet service specific requirements. These include time based promotion upto the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; introduction of Colonel (Time Scale) rank; upgradation of 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel; upgradation of 1896 posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in Navy and Air Force.

Government letter has been issued for reducing the minimum qualifying service for substantive promotion to the rank of Colonel and their equivalents in the other two Services to 15 years of reckonable commissioned service. The service specific requirements of the Navy are at variance with the other two Services, with respect to period of service for promotion to Captain. This is in keeping with the operational and functional requirements.

Army land scam in Ranikhet Cantt.

†3556. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of another major army land scam that has been committed in Ranikhet Cantt. area;
- (b) whether only highly placed army officers are involved in this big land scam or some ex-army officers and employees of cantonment board besides some common citizens are also involved;
- (c) whether dozens of shops reputed schools and hotels, etc. have been constructed on about forty acres of this land;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether any enquiry committee has been constituted for this acquired land costing Rs. 90 crores; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No such land scam has come to notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

New Procurement Policy for defence equipment and hardware

3557. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the new procurement policy for defence equipment and hardware, the Government is likely to prefer bidders who have invested in development of indigenous design and production facility for defence hardware and equipments;

(b) how soon this new procurement policy will be functional;

(c) whether according to the new procurement norms, the lowest Indian bidder will get 60 per cent of the indent and the second lowest the rest 40 per cent; and

(d) whether likely price variations between bid-1 and bid-2 for the same specification is admissible under the extant CVC guidelines laid down for a transparent procurement policy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence Procurement Policy-2008 (DPP-2008) came into effect from 1st September, 2008. There is a provision for periodical review of this procedure. DPP-2008 was last reviewed in 2009 and certain amendments were promulgated which became effective from 1st November, 2009.

Handing over road to NAD to Kalamassery Municipality

3558. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any memorandum from Government of Kerala to hand over the existing road to Naval Armament Depot (NAD), under the control of Ministry, to Kalamassery Municipality for public use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and