

side of the Line of Control was accepted by Pakistan.

(e) None.

(f) Does not arise.

Good-will Emissaries of Public Relations Directorate

2018. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules and procedure laid down to select persons working in the Public Relations Directorate in the Ministry of Defence and send them abroad as good will emissaries;

(b) whether any person have been selected and sent on such assignments consecutively for the last three years; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for sending the same persons consecutively?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Public Relations Officers required to accompany Good-will Cruises visiting foreign countries are selected keeping in view various factors like their suitability for the assignment, their other pre-occupations within the country during the period of the Cruise and the nature and duration of the Cruise. No person has been selected and sent on such assignments consecutively for the last three years.

Pay Scales of Army Jawans

2019. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHURAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scales of jawans in the Army are comparatively lower than the employees of similar status in other industries; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the pay scales of the jawans in order to attract suitable personnel for the armed forces?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The pay scales

of Jawans are not comparable with those of industrial workers. Pay scales of Jawans were revised with effect from January 1, 1973 in such a manner as to give him an edge corresponding personnel in paramilitary forces.

(b) Although the pay scales of Jawans were not revised thereafter, their service conditions have been made more attractive by various measures mentioned below:

(i) Dearness Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance are now paid at par with civilians instead of at 80 per cent of the sanctioned rate, as was the case earlier.

(ii) High Altitude/Uncongenial Climate Allowance in difficult hilly areas and Special Compensatory Allowance have been increased.

(iii) Admissibility and authorisation of compensation in lieu of quarters (CILO) have been liberalised.

(iv) Insurance cover for Jawans under the Army Group Insurance Scheme has been increased from Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

(v) Improvements have also been made in the promotional opportunities for Jawans. Also, two new Honorary Ranks, viz. Honorary Havildars and Honorary Naiks, have been introduced.

(vi) Entitlement of encashment of leave preparatory to retirement has been increased from 90 days to 120 days.

(vii) Considerable improvement has also been made in their pensionary benefits by merging a portion of Dearness Allowance with pay for retirement benefits and by introducing a new slab system for assessment of pension.

Transfer of Senior Technical Assistants in the Directorate of Production in Navy

2020. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Senior Technical Assistants in the Directorate of Production in Navy