

[23 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) A system of educating and counselling on stress related issues, which cover suicides also, already exists in the Defence forces. This includes increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers; strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit; using services of psychiatrists and counsellors to conduct lectures/presentations and educate officers/personnel; identifying personnel under stress and carrying out psychological conditioning and counselling of identified individuals. Officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized on the subject. Two Psychiatric centres in the Northern and Eastern Commands have been augmented by posting additional psychiatrists.

Recognition of Noor Inayat Khan's bravery

2764. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently published story of the heroism and sacrifice of Noor Inayat Khan, the first woman to have landed in an enemy territory of occupied France in World War-II;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to recognize this example of bravery and sacrifice, even at this belated stage, since her story would inspire many young people today and in future also; and

(c) whether Government would consider instituting an award in the name of Noor Inayat Khan, for acts of bravery, as young civilian and member of civil defence force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Inflated bills for treatment of Ex-Servicemen

2765. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private hospitals have been found preferring inflated bills, by carrying out needless treatment of ex-servicemen under Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the concerned private hospitals and the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Treatment of ECHS patients in empanelled hospitals is carried out only on a referral from an ECHS polyclinic. Bills are submitted by empanelled hospitals to the concerned ECHS polyclinic. These are then subjected to multi level checking before final approval is accorded by the competent financial Authority. Any excess charges are reduced. Payments are made strictly in accordance with the approved rates. Thus, there is a well established system of checks to prevent any misuse of this scheme by private hospitals.

Since most of the polyclinics are now functional, more and more patients are treated at the polyclinic level itself. Patients requiring further treatment are referred to service hospitals available locally and full facilities are utilised. If facilities are not available in service hospitals, only then the patients are referred to empanelled hospitals on the basis of specialist medical opinion. Strict norms are laid down to regulate expenditure and any procedure/treatment not listed in the rate list or *prima facie* high cost require prior approval of the competent authority. Bills submitted on the termination of treatment are processed through multi-level checks. Unauthorised charges are deducted to ensure strict cannot over expenditure.

**Defence estate properties in Kingsway and Delhi
University**

2766. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of properties in Kingsway and Delhi University areas under the control of Defence Estate;

(b) the terms and conditions of allotment of these properties;

(c) whether the Defence Estate recognizes/allows the transfer/sale of these properties and if so, on what terms and conditions;

(d) the number of requests for such transfers received during the last three years, year-wise, and how many of them are pending and since when and for what reasons;