

[16 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any request from the tourism Ministry for shifting of its shopping complexes for tourism promotions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

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

(b) The Government has decided *vide* letter No. 11026/2001-D(Lands) dated 25th February, 2005 that the management of shopping complexes will be exercised by the Government through the concerned Services Headquarters. Concerned services Headquarters will be fully accountable for the proper maintenance of their accounts and assets as per norms fixed in this regards. Guidelines/rules regarding operation, maintenance and allotment of shops, accounts etc. are to be formulated and issued by the Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Lakshya by Israel

1584. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel had agreed to buy Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakshya from India under reciprocal procurement of defence related items over a year ago;

(b) whether Israel had also paid for conducting trials of Lakshya PTA but has since reneged on its commitment opting for US made UAV; and

(c) whether Israel is still keeping its interest alive to buy advanced light helicopter Dhruv made by India with Israeli collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir, Israel had evinced keen interest in 2001, in leasing services of a Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakshya for exploration and evaluation. There was however no firm commitment to buy.

(b) Israel had paid expenses for conducting trials of Lakshya in Israel, for demonstrating its capabilities.

(c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) in November, 2004 for supply of one Dhruv Helicopter to Israel. HAL has also signed MoU for joint marketing of Dhruv with IAI's avionics package to potential international customers.

Re-employment of retired Jawans

†1585. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers retired from the various wings of Indian Army in last three years and total number of soliders among them who have got re-appointment in various departments and public sector undertakings of Central Government and State Governments;

(b) the number of ex-servicemen registered for re-employment with the Directorate General of ex-servicemen rehabilitation;

(c) whether Government after the review of policies and orders in this regard is going to make them more effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(b) As on date 11564 ex-servicemen are registered with Directorate General Resettlement for employment assistance. Besides, 3,42,274 ex-servicemen are registered with the various Zila Sainik Boards/Rajya Sainik Boards in the country.

(c) and (d) Supreme Court has imposed an overall ceiling of 50% on the reservations to be provided in Government jobs. However as reservation for SC/ST/OBC sums upto 49.5% DOP&T had considered the method of affecting the available reservation for ex-servicemen and decided that as held by the Supreme Court in a case on the subject, ex-servicemen be provided horizontal reservation as against the vertical reservation being provided to SC/ST/OBC *i.e.* an ex-servicemen selected under the reservation provided for them should be placed in the appropriate category *viz.* SC/ST/OBC/General category depending upon the category to which he belongs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.