

Employment to retired armed forces personnel

†2372. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take any step with regard to providing employment guarantee to thousands of such officers/soldiers who are getting retired from armed forces every year;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU):

(a) to (c) The Government has various training, resettlement and self employment schemes to provide employment to retiring Officers and Soldiers from the Armed Forces. There is no proposal to provide guaranteed employment to retiring officers and soldiers. However every possible avenue is explored by the Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW) Department and the Directorate General (Resettlement) towards increasing all possible employment avenues for all willing ESM.

Probe into Adarsh Co-operative Housing Society Scam

2373. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flats built on defence land by the Adarsh Co-operative Housing Society, Maharashtra, for Kargil veterans and widows were allotted to bureaucrats, army and navy commanders;

(b) whether bye laws of the said society were changed which allowed 40 per cent of civilians to become members of the society for allotment purpose; and

(c) whether Centre has ordered any probe into above mentioned scam; if so, with what outcome?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Adarsh Cooperative Housing Society (ACHS) has constructed a multi-storeyed building on a land measuring approximately 3837.57 sq. metres at Block VI, Colaba, Mumbai. As per available information, ACHS has 102 allottees, which include 37 Service officers. ACHS had sought allotment of land from Government of Maharashtra for the welfare of serving and retired personnel of Defence Forces. *Prima facie*, there have been some irregularities. The Government has entrusted an enquiry to CBI with a view to get the matter thoroughly investigated and fix responsibilities.

Soldiers and civilians killed during landmines clearing operations

2374. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.