

(a) whether Government proposes to provide world class facilities particularly to those soldiers who are posted in difficult terrain to contain increasing cases of suicides among soldiers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A pilot project has been launched for improvement in habitat for troops posted in high altitude areas. Providing appropriate facilities to soldiers posted in difficult terrain is the prime concern of the Government and is an ongoing process. These include not only habitat, but also clothing, rations and other facilities.

Encroachment on defence land

†2358. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence land is under unauthorized occupation at a large scale in various cities in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to remove the unauthorized occupation from the defence land; and

(d) whether there is any proposal in the favour of poor people who are doing construction work over defence land for years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Surplus defence land allotted to private parties

2359. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surplus/unused defence land is being allotted to the private parties for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted and the rules framed in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that such private parties are misusing the land allotted to them; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.