

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Indian Army is authorized to maintain two sets of special clothing and mountaineering equipment for Siachen and Super High Altitude areas. Out of these, one set is authorized to the troops in the field formations and the second set is maintained as reserve. There are no shortages in the special clothing and mountaineering equipment. No proposal to provide for the third set of clothing is under consideration of the Government as the present system of providing 100 per cent reserve is adequate.

It is a fact that total amount required for three sets of winter clothing a year is Rs. 142.2 crores out of the Defence budget of Rs. 72,000 crores.

Shortage of special clothing and equipment for troops at high altitudes

589. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported shortage of special clothing and equipment for troops deployed in high altitude regions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Army headquarters to ensure adequate and timely availability of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Indian Army is authorized to maintain two sets of special clothing and mountaineering equipment for Siachen and Super High Altitude areas. Out of these, one set is authorized to the troops in the field formations and the second set is maintained as reserve. There are no shortages in the special clothing and mountaineering equipment.

Upgradation of IAF

590. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF Chief has suggested downsizing and simultaneously upgrading IAF to make it more effective;