

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

One-rank-one pension scheme

928. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one-rank-one-pension scheme, aimed at bringing about equity amongst corresponding rank officers retiring from Armed Forces, has not been implemented fully;

(b) if so, which category and class of defence personnel still remain deprived of the benefits of the scheme; and

(c) how far the disparity in retirement benefits, like gratuity and pension payable to personnel retiring earlier than the cut off date (1996) still persists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted to look into the issue of 'one rank one pension'. GOM did not recommend 'one rank one pension'.

(c) Recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission (CPC) were implemented with effect from 1.1.1996. Differential in the pension of pre and post 1.1.1996 retirees exists because the 5th CPC did not recommend complete parity.

Rectification of defects in Arjun Tanks

929. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred Question 3035 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the shortcomings pointed out during the trials of production version of Arjun Tanks in June, 2005, have since been rectified; and

(b) if so, by when the improved and acceptable version of the tank is likely to be brought out and inducted into the army?