

(c) whether the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which is incharge of training technical graduate apprentices, are also against job reservation under the new law; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the difference in this issue?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (d) The Government is considering to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961 in consultation with all concerned Ministries. One of the amendments proposed relates to reserving 50 per cent of direct recruitment posts for trained Trade, Graduate, Technician and Technician (Vocational) apprentices who have been trained under the Apprentices Act, 1961 in the same establishment. Based on the views of the concerned ministries the proposal of amendment of the Apprentices Act will be processed further.

Disparity in pension among ex-servicemen

*298. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after implementation of One Rank One Pension in Armed Forces, there is disparity in pension among ex-servicemen, who retired before 1 January, 2006 and after;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken to remove such disparity;

(d) whether Government proposes to reduce minimum service required for pension in Armed Forces from 15 years to 10 years, as in the case of Civil Services, if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) One Rank One Pension (OROP) has not been implemented. Hence the question of disparity in that context does not arise.

(b) and (c) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of 'OROP and other related matters'.

After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee did not find it administratively feasible to recommend One Rank One Pension. However, keeping in mind the spirit of the demand, several other recommendations to substantially improve pensionary benefits of Personnel Below

Officer Rank (PBOR) and Commissioned Officers were made, which have been accepted by the Government and orders in implementation of all the recommendations have been issued. This has benefited about 12 lakh ex-servicemen. Implementation of these orders has not only significantly reduced the gap between the past and the current pensioners but has also considerably improved the pension of ex-servicemen including disabled ex-servicemen.

(d) As per the existing rules, the minimum qualifying service required to earn service pension is 20 years for Commissioned Officers and 15 years for Personnel Below Officers Rank. No change in the existing policy is presently contemplated by the Government.

(e) Minimum qualifying service is an essential criterion for pension in the Government. No change to reduce the number of years of service to earn life long pension is contemplated by the Government at present.

CBI investigation into Adarsh Co-operative Housing Society scam

*299. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2373 given in Rajya Sabha on 1 December, 2010 and state:

(a) how much time the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to take to complete investigation into the Adarsh Co-operative Housing Society Scam so as to fix responsibility on the persons who have allowed 40 per cent of civilians to become members of the Society for allotting flats instead of giving all the flats to Kargil veterans and widows; and

(b) what action Government proposes to take or have taken so far against guilty persons involved in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) on 15.11.2010 into the alleged irregularities in the allotment of land to Adarsh Co-operative Society in Mumbai and construction of High rise building on it. The PE has been completed and a regular case has been registered by CBI on 29.1.2011 against 13 persons under various Sections of Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Searches have been conducted at 13 places and large number of documents have been seized. Investigation is in progress.

(b) Action will be taken on the basis of the findings of the investigation.