

(d) whether the Army personnel deployed at these ranges of the Himalaya have been provided with adequate diet and clothes and weather-friendly lodging and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Adequate preventive rodent control measures as necessitated are taken for hygienic and safe storage of provisions by stock holding units.

Government is concerned with providing adequate and quality provisions, clothing to troops as per laid down specifications and authorization. Further improvement is an ongoing process.

Government sanction has been accorded to authorize special rations to all troops deployed in high altitude areas in locations above 12000 ft. Besides basic items of rations, number of other ready to eat processed food items are also issued as specially required by the troops deployed in higher reaches of the Himalayan summit. Special clothing is authorized to the troops deployed at High Altitude Areas. Adequate winter clothing is also being provided to the troops deployed in qualifying areas as authorized to them. 2 pilot projects on habitat improvement at high altitude areas have been sanctioned by the Government.

Issue of NOC for construction of Adarsh Housing Society

†2223. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army had issued No Objection Certificate for construction of Adarsh Society in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if No Objection Certificate had not been issued whether the Army has complained to Government for stopping its construction;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Adarsh Co-operative Housing Society (ACHS) had sought allotment of Land from Government of Maharashtra for the welfare of serving and retired personnel of defence services. *Prima facie*, there have been irregularities and one

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of the issues of concern in this regard pertains to issue of 'NOC' by the Army. The Government has entrusted enquiry to CBI with a view to get the matter thoroughly investigated and fix responsibilities.

Progress made by interlocutors in Kashmir

2224. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the purpose behind appointing interlocutors in Kashmir;
- (b) the procedure adapted for appointing the interlocutors;
- (c) did interlocutors meet the families of soldiers and other security forces;
- (d) the number of visits by the interlocutors and total expenses incurred thereon; and
- (e) the details of progress made by the interlocutors since the formation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT):

(a) and (b) The Interlocutors have been appointed by the Government, from among eminent persons with experience in specific fields, in order to engage with all sections of the people in Jammu & Kashmir and to hold sustained dialogue on the possibilities of a political solution to bring about peace and harmony in the State.

(c) There are no Government directions to the interlocutors on whom to meet.

(d) The Interlocutors have undertaken five visits to Jammu & Kashmir and have met with a wide range of cross section of the people in the State. The expenditure on the visits of Interlocutors is met on actual basis by the Government.

(e) The interlocutors have been able to persuade a number of stakeholders to offer their suggestions.

Charging more toll tax from commercial vehicles entering Delhi

†2225. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the contractor company has been charging 40 per cent more toll than the prescribed rate for the last three years from the commercial vehicles entering Delhi;

(b) if so, the authority on whose direction the contractor company is charging more amount; and

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