

of residential and non-residential areas in the Cantonment and the army areas around it;

(b) the number of house-owners and commercial establishments on whom notices have been served;

(c) the purposes for which acquisition notices have been served and the land acquired is purported to be used; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to extend the civil area of the cantonment, if so, to what extent and the steps so far taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No acquisition notice has been issued by the Cantonment Board, Mhow. However, some notices for eviction have been issued to encroachers on Government land under management of Cantonment Board, Mhow by the Cantonment Executive Officer as Estates Officer under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) Does not arise as no acquisition notice has been served by Cantonment Board, Mhow.

(d) Presently, the Government does not contemplate extension of Civil area in Mhow Cantonment.

Revision of Pension

338. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revise upwards the pensions for all lower ranks who retired before 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to introduce or develop a second skill during service so that they can lead a smooth life after retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 1.1.2006, pension of pre-1.1.1996 retirees of all ranks of Personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in Army, Navy and Air Force would be revised with reference to the maximum of post-1.1.1996

pay-scales. In addition, the weightage of Sepoy, Naik and Havildar ranks for past as well as future retirees has been enhanced from 5 years to 10, 8 and 6 years respectively subject to a maximum qualifying service of 30 years. However, if any person is getting a qualifying service of more than 30 years with the existing weightage, he would continue getting that.

(c) Directorate General, Resettlement organizes resettlement training/ vocational training of varying duration in various institutes across the country in a diverse range of disciplines for armed forces personnel about to retire to equip them for employment in the civil market. Review of courses and institutes is an ongoing process to enhance the employability potential of the personnel. These courses are conducted free of cost for the PBOR.

Launch of Battimalu

339. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact Navy launched its fast attack craft battimalu; and
- (b) how this helps in boosting indigenisation of such craft in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Fast Attack Craft (FAC) 'Battimalui' was launched on 28.6.2005 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. at Kolkata.

(b) The FAC has been designed indigenously and constructed at the Indian shipyard, GRSE Ltd., Kolkata. Almost total indigenization has been achieved in the construction of the craft which has helped the local Indian industry substantially.

National War Memorial

340. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 300 soldiers, on an average are killed every year while fighting an 'undeclared war' in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East but we do not have a National War Memorial to honour their sacrifices; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?