

dropped and new works are incorporated depending upon the need of the repairs and availability of resources.

Celebration of birth anniversary of Bhagini Nivedita

342. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes celebration of birth anniversary of Bhagini Nivedita; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per Government of India's norms, Commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagini Nivedita will commence from 28th October, 2017 since Bhagini Nivedita was born on 28th October, 1867. Hence, at present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of officers in armed forces

343. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to meet shortage of officers in the Armed Forces, Government has allowed re-employment of Brigadiers to posts like instructors and other staff appointments;
- (b) if so, whether re-employment will not exceed ten per cent of the total number of officers retiring;
- (c) whether Army faces shortage of more than 12,000 officers especially at the junior and middle levels;
- (d) if so, whether inspite of steps like improving career prospects for Majors and Colonels, pay hike and promotional campaigns, Government has not been able to improve the shortage in the Armed Forces; and
- (e) if so, the steps Government is considering to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Government have allowed re-employment of retired Brigadiers against some staff/instructional/other appointments. The number of re-employed retired Brigadiers is limited to a maximum ten per cent of the authorised strength of the re-employed officers.