

#### **Rise in encroachment of defence land**

† \*138. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the cases of encroachment on the defence land in many parts of the country and the alleged involvement of defence officials in such cases are on the rise;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check such cases; and

(c) the names of cases being investigated by the CBI or other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Encroachments have increased marginally in certain areas whereas these have decreased in some areas. Also most of the encroachments are from earlier years. There has been no report on alleged involvement of officials.

(b) Action for removal of encroachments is taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants), Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonments Act, 2006. Detailed instructions emphasizing the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments have been issued by the Ministry. The process of detection and removal of the encroachments is a continuing exercise.

(c) No encroachment case is being investigated by the CBI.

#### **Disposal of mercy petitions**

\*139. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 30 mercy petitions are pending for disposal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when they are pending;

(c) whether there is any set time-frame within which they are to be disposed of;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government for speedy disposal of such mercy petitions?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.