

- (f) whether it would affect the morale and might of Indian Army; and
- (g) if so, the steps Government propose to strengthen the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (g) No, Sir. Indian Army has been purchasing various types of tanks on a regular basis during this period.

Transfer of Defence Land for Civic Projects in Pune

1594. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many proposals are pending for transfer of Defence land for various civic projects submitted by Pune Corporation;
- (b) what is status of all these proposals and it's details;
- (c) the reasons for delay in decision making; and
- (d) how Government propose to proceed on all these issues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) 11 proposals have been received from Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for transfer of Defence land for various civic projects.

(b) Nine proposals are related to widening of roads; two proposals are for construction Railway Over Bridge and flyover respectively.

(c) The proposals are pending mainly due to non-availability of NOC from Local Military Authorities, non-finalization of site and non-submission of revised proposals from Pune Municipal Corporation.

(d) As per the policy laid down by the Ministry.

Demand for One Rank One Pension for Retired Army Personnel

1595. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing demand to implement One Rank One Pension to all retired Army personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that because of non-implementation of the above, there exists huge disparities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The ex-servicemen Associations have been demanding for several years grant of same pension which is granted to new pensioners with same rank and same length of service irrespective of date of retirement, popularly known as “One Rank One Pension” (OROP). The differentials in pension between the past and the new retirees arise on account of the fact that the computation of pension depends on the pay scale of the person at the time of retirement and pension undergoes change as and when the pay scales are revised.

Their requests have been considered by the Government and over the years several improvements have been made in pension of past pensioners in accordance with the recommendations of successive Pay Commissions, as accepted by the Government. The Cabinet Secretary Committee constituted by the Government of India to look into the demand of OROP and related issues gave seven recommendations to reduce the gap between past and current pensioners. All the seven recommendations were accepted and implemented which has significantly reduced the gap between the past and present pensioners and also considerably improved the pension of disabled ex-servicemen. However pension reform is a continuous process.

Development of Agni-V

1596. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) raises the bar and sets its sights on 5000 km. range, Agni-V;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status thereof; and
- (d) the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) Information can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Lack of Infrastructure on the India-China Border

1597. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the lack of infrastructure on the India-China border areas;
- (b) whether Government is taking steps to expedite construction of critical infrastructure such as roads in such areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;