

- (3) Delays in manual processing of hospital bills.
- (c) (1) The Government has allotted additional budget to meet the requirement of ECHS. In the current financial year, ECHS was initially allotted Rs. 1000.00 crores. Subsequently additional budget allotted to ECHS is as follows:-
 - (i) Rs. 400.00 crores on 9th August, 2012.
 - (ii) Rs. 102.86 Crores on 18th February, 2013.
 - (iii) Rs. 100.00 Crores on 25th February, 2013.
- (2) To improve the supply of medicines to ECHS beneficiaries, the Government is considering outsourcing of pharmacy operations in ECHS Polyclinics.
- (3) For timely clearance of hospital bills, the Government has sanctioned a system of computerized on-line bill processing.

**Committee to look into pay and pension grievance of retired
military personnel**

959. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted a Committee to look into pay and pension grievances of serving and retired military personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not having any military representative on the Committee; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard and to calm the growing discontentment among the forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted by the Government in July, 2012 under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and consisting of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Defence Secretary, Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Secretary, Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare and

Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training for looking into the pay and pension related issues of relevance to Defence Services Personnel and Ex-Servicemen.

(c) Although there was no military representative on the Committee, consultations were held with all the Service Chiefs by the Committee before finalizing the recommendations.

(d) Four recommendations were made by the Committee on revision of pension/ family pension of Armed Forces personnel. They are - One Rank One Pension - Bridging the gap in pensions, Enhancement of family pensions, Dual family pension and pension to physically/mentally challenged son/daughter of armed forces personnel on marriage. All the recommendations of the Committee, 2012 have been implemented by issue of eight Government letters on 17.1.2013. These are available on the websites www.desw.gov.in and www.cgda.nic.in.

Excessive purchase of medicines for armed forces

†960. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain medicines for the armed forces have been purchased in such a quantity that their complete utilization is not possible before their expiry date;

(b) if so, the details of such medicines along with the expenditure incurred on their purchase;

(c) whether any action is being taken/has taken against anyone for purchasing these medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The procurement of medicines is carried out by the Armed Forces Medical Stores Depots (AFMSDs), Direct Demanding Officers (DDOs) [Six Command Hospitals and Army Hospital (R&R)] and service hospitals in addition to central procurement as per Rate Contract policy based on the requirement. As per the present terms and conditions mentioned in Supply Orders and Rate Contracts, suppliers are bound to replace the unconsumed stock/expired medicines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.