

scales with effect from 01.01.1996 and thereafter to compute their pensionary benefits. The matter was considered in consultation with Ministry of Law and a Special Leave Petition was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court which is pending.

Demand of relevant documents from Italy in VVIP chopper scam

4540. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has demanded from Italy all the relevant documents regarding VVIP chopper scam;
- (b) if so, the details of the list thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) why Government has not issued Letter Rogatory (LR)?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) As a result of the steps taken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) through Indian Embassy in Italy, sending a Joint Team of MoD and Ministry of External Affairs to Italy and issuing show cause notices, the Ministry has received an initial set of documents from Italy which include, *inter alia*, copy of the search & seizure order issued by the Judge for the preliminary investigation in Busto Arsizio, Italy, copies of certain contracts entered by a shareholder company of M/s Agusta Westland International Limited, UK with various entities in Tunisia and India. Letter Rogatories to various countries are under preparation by Central Bureau of Investigation.

Shortage of high-tech equipments for vigil on Indo-China border

†4541. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of high quality equipments for keeping vigil on Indo-China border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any action plan to make improvement in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from different agencies.

Shortage of officers/personnel in armed forces

‡4542. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge shortage of officers/ personnel in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this can cause an adverse effect on the working of the armed forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated to fill this gap?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Details of the shortage of the officers/ personnel in the Armed Forces are as under:

Army (as on date)		Navy (as on 31.12.2012)		Air Force	
Officers	PBORs	Officers	Sailors	Officers (as on 1.5.2013)	Airmen (as on 1.4.2013)
9590	26433	2054	14512	742	4948

(c) and (d) The needs of security are being met by the optimum utilisation of the available strength by prioritisation of activities, use of technology and reliance on the high motivation of the personnel.

(e) Government has taken a number of measures to encourage youth to join the Armed Forces, including conduct of recruitment rallies, media campaign etc. Further, Government has taken various steps to make armed forces jobs attractive for youngsters. These include implementation of the recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with improved pay structure, additional family accommodation through Married Accommodation Project (MAP) and improvement in promotion prospects in the Armed Forces.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.