

Presently, Permanent Commission is applicable to women officers from Army Education Corps and Judge Advocate General Branch. These women officers are being considered for promotion to the select rank, based on the same criteria as applicable to Male officers.

**Navy:** In the Indian Navy, officers are eligible for substantive promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, Lieutenant Commander, Commander and Captain (Time Scale) after completion of 2 years as Sub Lieutenant, 4 years from the date of promotion of Substantive Lieutenant, 11 years from the date of promotion of Substantive Lieutenant and 26 years of reckonable commissioned service respectively. Promotions on these lines are subject to officers fulfilling other criteria as per extant rules. This policy is equally applicable to both men and women officers.

**Air Force:** In the Air Force, officers are eligible for substantive promotion to the rank of Flit. Lieutenant, Squadron Leader, Wing Commander and Group Captain (Time Scale) after completion of 2 years, 6 years, 13 years and 26 years of reckonable commissioned service respectively. Promotion on these lines are subject to officers fulfilling other criteria as per extant rules. This policy is equally applicable to both men and women officers.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Maintenance of Tanakpur-Tawaghat motorway**

†1578. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the only connecting motorway to the bordering district Pithouragarh, Tanakpur-Tawaghat motorway is very crucial from defence point of view;

(b) if so, the details of the officials responsible for showing slackness in the maintenance of the above mentioned motorway; and

(c) the year-wise details of the funds allocated under various heads for the maintenance of Tanakpur-Tawaghat motorway from the year 1963 to 2012?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):(a) to (c) The road Tanakpur-Tawaghat is of significant importance for connectivity in the region. Available details of year-wise allotment of funds for maintenance of this road sector are as follows:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Years	Fund allotment (Rs. in Lacs)
1	2
1985-1986	70.41
1986-1987	71.47
1987-1988	87.35
1988-1989	88.47
1989-1990	70.75
1990-1991	45.85
1991-1992	45.85
1992-1993	52.01
1993-1994	52.62
1994-1995	58.16
1995-1996	58.16
1996-1997	21.56
1997-1998	58.16
1998-1999	58.16
1999-2000	101.39
2000-2001	101.39
2001-2002	101.39
2002-2003	101.39
2003-2004	101.39
2004-2005	101.39
2005-2006	42.96
2006-2007	42.96
2007-2008	150.65
2008-2009	190.30

1	2
2009-2010	190.30
2010-2011	233.49
2011-2012	378.69
2012-2013	378.69

BRO has deployed adequate manpower, equipment and financial resources for making all out efforts to maintain the road at optimum level.

#### **Scrapping of Agusta Westland Helicopter deal**

1579. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to terminate the Agusta Westland Helicopter deal, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether the advance amount paid by India will be paid back by the helicopter suppliers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The contract for the supply of 12 VVIP / VIP helicopters signed with M/s. Agusta Westland International Limited (AWIL) on 8th February, 2010 has been terminated by the Government of India with effect from 1st January, 2014 on grounds of breach of the provisions of the Pre-contract Integrity Pact and breach of the terms of the contract by M/s. AWIL. Subsequent to the termination of the contract, two Bank Guarantees amounting to Rs. 240 crores approx. have been encashed. Advance amount is adjusted against the payments for deliveries under the contract and is secured by advance bank guarantees provided by the seller on Deutsche Bank, Milan. Demand was made on Deutsche Bank, Milan for encashment of advance bank guarantees. However, the seller has obtained and interim stay from the Ordinary Tribunal of Milan, Italy against this. Steps are underway to get the stay vacated.

#### **NHs and State roads in NER handed over to BRO**

1580. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: