

Assigning women officers to combat positions

†*318. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to assign women officers of army to combat positions;
- (b) if so, whether Government has chalked out blueprint in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study regarding the role of women officers in the army in other countries before arriving at the said decision and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Women are inducted as Short Service Commissioned officers in select support arms and services. Studies have been carried out on employment of women in Armed Forces by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) in 2006 and a High Level Tri-Services Committee in 2011, which took into account role of women in Armed Forces of some other countries. Induction of women in combat duties has not been recommended in these Studies. Presently, there is no proposal to assign women officers of Army to combat positions.

Increase in import of edible oil

*319. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of edible oil has been increased drastically in the last fifteen years;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details of import for the last fifteen years, both quantity-wise and in monetary terms; and
- (c) whether Government has any schemes to promote domestic production of edible oil, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The details of import of edible oil quantity-wise and value-wise from 1998-99 to 2013-14 is as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.