

process. Coastal security along our coast is provided by Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Indian Navy. Government has initiated several measures to strengthen Coastal Security, which includes improving surveillance mechanism and enhanced patrolling by following an integrated approach. Joint Operational exercises are conducted on regular basis among Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, Customs and others for security of coastal areas including island territories. Further, continuous review and monitoring of various mechanisms have been established by the Government involving various agencies, including the State Government/Union Territory authorities. The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi-agency coordination mechanism.

(c) Indian Navy is a well balanced composite force with surface, sub-surface and air assets. Force levels are maintained keeping in view the strategic environment, national interests and threat perception.

(d) and (e) Government is aware of the security needs of our coastal areas. Patrolling of coastal areas is being done daily with an average of about 19-22 ICG Ships and about 7-8 aircraft on aerial surveillance sorties. Surveillance on the West Coast has also increased substantially with about 9-12 ICU Ships and 4-6 aircraft being deployed everyday.

In addition to patrolling by surface and air assets, technical surveillance is also being undertaken using coastal radars, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system, Communication Interception and other Open Information Sources. National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network has also been established for developing a common operational picture.

Payment of DA on pension of ex-servicemen

3575. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines with certain conditions with regard to payment of DA on pension to ex-servicemen re-employed in Public Sector Banks, SBI and its Associate Banks;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines;

(c) whether these guidelines are being implemented by all banks uniformly without prejudice to the ex-servicemen category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRIINDERJITSINGH RAO): (a) to (c) Guidelines issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare for payment of Dearness Relief to re-employed pensioners have been extended by this Ministry to the ex-servicemen re-employed in civil posts. These guidelines are as under:

- (i) The pay of re-employed pensioners who held posts of the ranks of Commissioned Officers at the time of their retirement is fixed at the same stage as last drawn before their retirement. These pensioners are not entitled to any Dearness Relief on pension on their re-employment in civil posts.
- (ii) The pay of re-employed pensioners who held posts below the ranks of Commissioned Officers (PBOR) at the time of their retirement is fixed at the minimum of the pay scale of the post in which they are re-employed. Such pensioners are entitled to Dearness Relief on pension on their re-employment in civil posts.
- (iii) If the pay of re-employed pensioners who held posts, below the ranks of Commissioned Officer (PBOR) at the time of their retirement before attaining the age of 55 years, is fixed at a higher stage because of advance increments and no protection of the last pay drawn is being given, the pay is treated as fixed at a minimum of the pay scale for the purposes of ignoring the entire pension and allowing Dearness Relief on pension.

It is expected that the aforesaid guidelines are being implemented by all banks uniformly without prejudice to the ex-servicemen category.

Tobacco free zones in defence establishments

3576. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to ban sale of tobacco products in armed forces canteens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to declare all defence establishments, including naval ships as no smoking zones; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Tobacco products are neither procured nor sold by Defence Canteens.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

HAL under IAF's control

3577. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IAF is not satisfied with the performance of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL); and