

(b) the details of recruitment centres. State-wise and location-wise in the country as on date;

(c) the details of locations especially in rural areas where Government proposes to recruit youth during this financial year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare schemes for retired armed forces personnel

674. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to established old age homes for shelterless single elderly Armed Forces pensioners / veterans in different parts of the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State / UT-wise;

(c) whether Government is also considering to provide increased family pension or other financial benefits for defence personnel having mentally and physically challenged children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRIINDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Army is establishing two Old Age Homes at Panchkula (Haryana) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) on the concept of 'Pay and Stay'.

(c) and (d) The pensionary entitlements of Armed Forces Pensioners have been upwardly revised with effect from 24th September 2012 *vide* Government letter dated 17th January 2013 as under:

Ordinary Family Pension:

- (i) The pre-2006 family pensioners of Commissioned Officers have been granted minimum guaranteed family pension at 30% of the minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table.
- (ii) The pre-2006 family pensioners of JCOs/ORs have been granted family pension at 30% of minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table or 60% of the service pension whichever is higher.

Special Family Pension:

- (i) The pre-2006 family pensioners of Commissioned Officers have been granted minimum guaranteed Special Family Pension at 60% of the minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table.

- (ii) The pre-2006 family pensioners of JCOs/ORs have been granted Special Family Pension at 60% of minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table or 120% of the service pension whichever is higher.

Liberalised Family Pension:

- (i) The pre-2006 family pensioners of Commissioned Officers have been granted minimum guaranteed Liberalised Family Pension at 100% of the minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table.
- (ii) The pre-2006 family pensioners of JCOs/ORs have been granted Liberalised Family Pension at 100% of the minimum pay of the rank in the fitment table or 200% of the service pension whichever is higher.

Pension for Physically / Mentally challenged Children: The physically / mentally challenged son / daughter of Armed Forces Pensioners are now eligible for Ordinary Family Pension even after marriage.

Inquiry into INS Talwar accident

675. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons behind INS Talwar colliding with a fishing vessel on December 23, 2014;
- (b) whether any inquiry has been conducted;
- (c) if so, the outcome of the same and action taken against the erring officials; and
- (d) the details of efforts the Ministry is making or going to make to ensure that such mishaps do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The incident of collision between INS Talwar and a fishing vessel on 23rd December 2013 has been attributed to both inadequate lookout and non-adherence of standard norms of outboard lighting by the fishing boat as well as error in judgment by the naval ship's crew, at night.

(b) and (c) The Board of Inquiry (BoI) instituted by Indian Navy has held four officers and two sailors culpable and disciplinary action is being initiated against them.

(d) Advisories for adherence to Standard Operating Procedures have been issued. Safety procedures and professional checks are being re-emphasized. Incidents Study