

(b) On the request of the Cantonment Executive Officer, the State Irrigation Department has prepared a Project report for a check dam. No formal proposal has, however, been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of above.

Setting up of Veterans Commission

3345. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time-line by which Government proposes to constitute a Veterans Commission;

(b) the proposed mandate and the powers of the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission shall be a statutory authority; and

(d) the funds allocated for the setting up of the Veterans Commission during the year 2014-2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) President of India in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 9.6.2014, *inter-alia* mentioned that Government will appoint a Veterans Commission to address their grievances. The proposal regarding setting up of the Commission is under consideration of the Government.

(d) No funds have been allocated for setting up the Veterans Commission during the year 2014-15.

Demand for replacing of outdated defence equipments

3346. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wives of army personnel have requested Government to replace the outdated defence equipments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Army Wives Agitation Group has submitted a representation for removal of the outdated defence equipments;

(c) whether it is also a fact that about four years back Government had announced that Cheetah fleet will be replaced soon but Cheetah fleets are still in operation with the defence service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Outdated equipments are not utilized by soldiers. The Government has well established procedures to replace outdated military equipment.

(c) and (d) In pursuance to the decision taken by Defence Acquisition Council in its meeting held on 29.08.2014, the Request For Information (RFI) has been issued on 26.09.2014 for Reconnaissance and Surveillance Helicopters (RSH), Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) and Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH). These helicopters are proposed to replace Cheetah and Chetak Helicopters.

Non-renewal of lease of Defence land

3347. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tardy implementation of rules to renew lease of Defence land in number of cases has resulted in a loss of thousands of crores of rupees as revenue to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-renewal and non-realisation of rental of Defence land in large number of cases for several years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for proper maintenance of records regarding execution of lease deals and timely renewal of lease in order to avoid revenue losses to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Defence lands in Cantonments have been given on lease under the provisions of the Cantonment Code, 1899, 1912 and Cantonment Land Administration Rules (CLAR), 1925 and 1937. These leases were given long time back, either in perpetuity or for fixed terms. Lease rent and premium (wherever applicable) for these leases were fixed at that point of time based on the prevalent land value. There are a number of leases which have expired and difficulties have been encountered in their timely renewal on account of absence of renewal application with full documents, violation of lease terms, non-mutation due to disputes etc. There is no permanent financial loss to the Government as the ex-lessees will be required to pay arrears of rent at the time of renewal of leases. Instructions have been issued to either renew the leases in a time bound manner or cancel the same. Record management of field offices of Defence Estates Department has also been strengthened with a view to improving land management including management of leases.