

taken up with Election Commission of India. Meanwhile, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an interim order on 24.3.2014 in Writ Petition (C) No.1005 of 2013 (Neela Gokhale versus Union of India & Another) with Special Leave Petition (C) No.6554/2014 (Rajeev Chandrasekhar versus Union of India & Others), *inter alia*, giving directions regarding registration of Service personnel posted in peace stations as general voters; not insisting on Election Commission of India's order dated 28.12.2008 wherein certain conditions for registration of Service personnel as general voters have been prescribed; furnishing of details of peace stations to Election Commission of India and providing assistance to Election Commission of India for making Postal Ballot effective.

In compliance of the *ibid* interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, list of peace stations was furnished by the Ministry of Defence to Election Commission of India for registration of Service personnel working in those locations as general voters. Election Commission of India, in compliance of aforesaid interim orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, issued instructions on 26.3.2014 to all Chief Electoral Officers of all States with reference to Service personnel who have been posted at peace stations on 1.1.2014 and continue to be posted there on the date of the commencement of the election process in the concerned Assembly Constituency. Even after completion of General Election to Lok Sabha 2014, the Commission have extended these instructions for further period till any further order is given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Internal instructions were issued by the Ministry of Defence to the Services Headquarters for taking all necessary steps and provide necessary assistance to Election Commission in making Postal Ballot for Service personnel effective.

Under water vehicles developed by DRDO

1338. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is considering to rollout its underwater vehicles;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether DRDO has already commenced work on a yet-to-be-sanctioned ₹ 250 crore programme for developing a range of Autonomous under water vehicles for a variety of roles such as force multipliers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) as technology demonstrator. A project has been taken up to demonstrate certain enhanced critical parameters of the AUV.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. DRDO has undertaken a feasibility study for the development of different types of AUV platforms that could be used for a variety of roles, like surveillance and mine counter measures etc.

Welfare schemes for ex-servicemen

†1339. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI AJAY SANCHETI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of Ex-servicemen in the country as on date;
- (b) the details regarding schemes being implemented for their welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement;
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide some more benefits to the ex-servicemen; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) Details of ex-servicemen in the country at present, State / UT-wise are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Details of schemes being implemented for the welfare of ex-servicemen are given in Statement-II (see below).

(c) and (d) Welfare of ex-servicemen is continuous process and Government endeavours to explore new schemes and improve upon the existing schemes to provide more benefits to the ex-servicemen.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.