

Malpractices in recruitment of soldiers

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

(a) whether any complaint regarding discrimination between civilian and service personnel of the defence sector has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether several complaints regarding irregularities, malpractices and corruption in the recruitment of soldiers has been received by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year; and the action taken against the guilty persons in this regard; and

(e) the alternative steps being taken to prevent such malpractices in the recruitment of soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) From time to time Defence Civilian employees have been raising the demands that they should be granted Field Area allowance and Modified Field Area allowance as applicable to the service Personnel and for providing other allowances like Aeronautical Technical Allowance, Airworthiness Certificate Allowance, Flight Charge Certificate Allowance etc. at par with technical defence personnel. It has not been found feasible to accept these demands as the job requirements and service conditions of Service Personnel and Defence Civilian employees are totally different.

(c) and (d) Complaints relating to alleged irregularities/malpractices in recruitment of soldiers have been received from time to time. In cases of complaints of involvement of touts, FIRs, where applicable, have been lodged. During the last three years (2012 to till date), three cases of involvement of Service Personnel were found. Court of Inquiry has been instituted in one case; preliminary investigation has been ordered in another case and in third, the CBI has registered a case.

(e) Proactive measures have been taken on a continuous basis to streamline the recruitment process. These include deployment of vigilance teams, involving police and Government intelligence sources, introducing additional checks and balances in documentation procedure, online verification of documents where feasible, conducting awareness campaigns against falling prey to touts, in-house printing of Question Papers to obviate leakage.

National Military Memorial

44. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1586 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th February, 2014 and state: