THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Military Nursing Service is a part of Armed Forces Medical Services as an auxiliary service which is governed by Military Nursing Service Rules, 1944 framed under (The Indian) Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943. Therefore, all the provisions of the Army Act are not applicable to MNS.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is disparity in applicability of the Army Act between the officers of MNS and those of regular Army as these are two separate cadres. The disparity in applicability of the Army Act between officers of the above mentioned two different cadres stems from the difference in legal provisions governing them. However, it is ensured that all rules and regulations applicable to MNS are adhered to at all times.

Implementing of OROP scheme

2446. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any reservations about the contributions and the sacrifices made by our defence personnel, if so, what are those reservations;

(b) if not, why the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme has not been implemented by Government, despite its concurrent assurances and promises during the last General Elections; and

(c) by when the OROP scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The policy of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP), for the Armed Forces has been adopted by the Government to address the pension disparities. The modalities for implementation were discussed with various stakeholders and are presently under consideration of the Government. It will be implemented once the modalities are approved by the Government.

Production of aircraft by TATA-Airbus consortium

2447. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has favoured single vendor by clearing TATA-Airbus consortium of ₹ 11,930 crore for production of transport aircraft, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in procuring material with proper tendering system have been ignored to favour TATA-Airbus Industries if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A proposal to procure 56 transport aircraft as replacement for the ageing fleet of Avro aircraft through 'Buy & Make' route was accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). Out of these, 40 aircraft will be manufactured in India by the Indian Production Agency (IPA) chosen by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) from the private sector. The Request for Proposal EFP) was issued to eight global transport aircraft manufacturers on 8th May, 2013. Only a single bid was received in response to the RFP. The DAC constituted an Independent Committee of Experts to look into various issues related to single vendor situation. The report of the Committee was placed before the DAC. After consideration of the report of the Committee and related aspects, DAC, the competent authority under Defence Procurement Procedure, accorded approval proceed with the case with the single bid received from M/s Airbus Defence and Space S.A.

Integration of Indian Systems of medicine in Armed Forces

2448. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army's base hospitals at Delhi, Pune and Jamnagar have Ayurveda Kendras and satellite Ayurveda clinics are functioning at units of Army and Navy at Valsura, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for misleading statement by DGAFMS that Ayurvedic treatment is not approved within the services in an NSG commando case for reimbursement of Ayurvedic treatment expenses; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to integrate Ayurvedic and other Indian Systems of medicine in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) The Army's Base Hospitals at Delhi, Pune and Jamnagar have no Ayurveda Kendras. However, an Ayurvedic practitioner from the Ayurveda University of Jamnagar visits naval hospital at Valsura, Gujarat once a week for one hour. Patients who wish to take consultation on voluntary basis meet the practitioner. There is no Army Hospital at Valsura.

Ayurveda treatment is not approved as a mode of treatment for service personnel. However, the reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by an NSG Commando on