

(b) whether any armed forces personnel serving in areas notified as 'disturbed areas' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 have been prosecuted under these provisions, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such prosecutions that resulted in conviction and the punishment awarded therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) No prosecutions have been initiated for offences under Section 64, sub-Sections (a) and (f) of the Army Act, 1950 during the last three years.

(b) No Armed Forces personnel serving in areas notified as 'disturbed areas' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 have been prosecuted.

(c) Does not arise.

Domestic manufacturing of fighter aircraft

1968. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the year end, India would select one or more fighter aircraft which will be manufactured; locally by a private company under the Make in India initiative; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is in addition to the Light Combat Aircraft, the production of which is being scaled up, if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Holding of cocktail party at Air Force Station, Hindon

1969. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any complaint filed by an advocate supported by photographic evidence regarding security lapses and hosting of cocktail party by an Air Officer Commanding inside Air Force Station, Hindon in the month of September, 2015;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted by the Ministry, and the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officer who has hosted the cocktail party with exchequer money and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) A complaint about cocktail party hosted at Air Force Station, Hindon in September, 2015 was received. As per investigation carried out by Indian Air Force, it is an annual event conducted every year for local media persons prior to Air Force Day (8th October). This year the event was organized on 16.09.2015. All laid down policies on security were adhered to. No expenditure was incurred from the exchequer.

Discrimination in structure of giving MSP

1970. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is paying Military Service Pay (MSP) to Armed Forces Personnel, whose genesis is based on amount of the degree of "Hardship and Risk Factor" they undergo while discharging their duties;

(b) whether the MSP being paid to the Armed Forces Personnel is equal, and whether they face equal hardships and risk to life;

(c) if not, whether it is the failure of the genesis and violation of principle of Natural Justice and Equality; and

(d) whether Government contemplates to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Military Service Pay (MSP) is being paid to the Armed Forces Personnel *w.e.f.* 1st September, 2008. It is a compensation paid to the Armed Forces Personnel as a recognition for the intangible aspects linked to the special conditions of their service. On recommendation of 6th Central Pay Commission, MSP was introduced for the first time in respect of Armed Forces.

The MSP being paid to Armed Forces Personnel is in two slabs:-

(i) For Officers - ₹ 6,000 per month

(ii) For JCOs/OR - ₹ 2,000 per month.

However, Government has separately provided a number of allowances based on risks and hardships involved at a location/in an operation, such as High Altitude Allowances, Field Area/Modified Area Allowances, Counter Insurgency Allowance etc.