

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.