

**MSP paid to armed forces personnel**

\*26. 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 on the degree of 'Hardships 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; and

(c) what measures Government contemplates to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Military Service Pay (MSP) was introduced *w.e.f.* 1st September, 2008 for the first time in respect of Armed Forces on the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC). 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.

The MSP being paid to Armed Forces Personnel as per the recommendation of the 6th Central Pay Commission is in two slabs:-

(i) For Officers up to the level of Brigadier - ₹ 6,000/-p.m.

(ii) For JCOs/OR - ₹ 2,000/-p.m.

Besides, MSP 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 Field Area Allowances, Counter Insurgency Allowances etc.

**Incident of fire at Army's Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon**

\*27. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of fire incidents/tragedy in various defence establishments including massive fire at the Army's Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) in Pulgaon town of Maharashtra's Wardha district recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of persons injured/killed during the last three years and the current year, fire incident-wise;

(c) whether Government has ordered any inquiry in this regard, if so, the details and present status thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check such incidents in future?