

(b) whether it is also a fact that Trishul Airbase, Bareilly has written to administration regarding security threats and problems posed by a number of mobile towers, unauthorised construction, illegal slaughter houses and kite flying nearby it; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Adequate measures are in place to ensure safety and security of the airbases. Post Pathankot terror attack, a security audit of all Air Force Stations in the country has been carried out. Some of the loopholes observed during the audit have been plugged.

(b) Air Force station, Bareilly (Trishul airbase) has, on various occasions, informed the District Administration about the unauthorised constructions and mobile towers around the vicinity of airfield.

(c) District Magistrate, Bareilly has issued an order dated 07.04.2016 restricting construction within 100 m from the outer limit of Air Force Station, Bareilly. A team has also been constituted to demarcate unauthorised buildings within 100 m from the boundary of the Air Force Station by the Bareilly Development Authority.

Issuing of ECHS smart cards

916. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all beneficiaries under the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme have been issued ECHS Smart Cards;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the projected time-frame by which it will be achieved; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been over payment of ₹ 3.51 crore to the ECHS empanelled hospitals on account of inflated bills in excess of authorised package rates of ₹ 1.92 crore and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The period of contract awarded to the vendor for making Smart Cards for the ECHS beneficiaries has expired on 31.05.2015. The process to award contract to a new vendor for making smart cards has been initiated. It is likely to take approximately 10-12 months for finalisation of the contract and restoring of smart card making process.

(c) The over payment to ECHS empanelled hospitals on account of medical bills has not been established so far.