

**Quality of food served to soldiers**

520. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA:

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of frequent complaints by soldiers about the poor quality of food served to them, there has been no improvement in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the guidelines about the food served to soldiers and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) There have been no major complaints by the soldiers regarding quality of food. The soldiers of Armed Forces are provided rations as per entitlement and Defence Food Specifications. However, the improvement in quality of food is ongoing process and is undertaken based on feedback from troops and advice of scientific bodies.

Some of important steps taken by Government towards the improvements are mentioned below:—

- (i) Increase in scale of meat/chicken (broiler) dressed for JCOs/ORs and authorisation of chilled/frozen meat/chicken as basic ration at 136 stations.
- (ii) Introduction of ready to eat vegetables in retort pouches with longer shelf life.
- (iii) Extension of Special Rations of Siachen Glacier to troops across the country anywhere above 12000 feet.

**Expanding defence manufacturing base in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**

521. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand manufacturing base in the defence establishment including manufacturing arms, wheels etc. in Jabalpur as it has a very large area engaged in ordnance manufacturing and therefore, Madhya Pradesh has immense potential in that area; and

(b) if so, manufacturing of which item is to be expanded and indicative time for expanding such establishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The following Ordnance Factories located in