

Sri Lankan authorities act with restraint and our fishermen are treated in a humane manner and are released expeditiously.

Augmenting defence preparedness to meet challenges

4346. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of developing and increasing of weapons by some of our neighbouring countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has reviewed or proposes to review the implication of such imports on National security and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to augment the defence preparedness to meet the challenges in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Government keeps a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our national security and takes necessary measures to safeguard it. Further, appropriate steps are taken to ensure that the security concerns are adequately addressed through various measures including capability building and infrastructural development.

Redressing grievances of ex-servicemen over OROP

4347. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the features of One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme announced by Government some time ago;

(b) whether there is strong resentment amongst ex-servicemen concerning the OROP Scheme announced by Government, if so, details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by Government to redress the grievances of ex-servicemen;

(d) the total number of ex-servicemen in the country who are eligible to receive benefits under OROP Scheme and how many ex-servicemen have received benefits under OROP Scheme; and

(e) the total number of ex-servicemen who have not yet received benefits under OROP Scheme together with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Salient features of the Government order dated 07.11.2015 on OROP are as under:—

- (i) Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of pension of retirees of calendar year 2013 and the benefit will be effective with effect from 01.07.2014.
- (ii) Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners on the basis of the average of minimum and maximum pension of personnel retired in 2013 in the same rank and with same length of service.
- (iii) Pension for those drawing above the averages shall be protected.
- (iv) Arrears will be paid in four equal half yearly instalments. However, all the family pensioners including those in receipt of Special / Liberalized family pension and Gallantry award winners shall be paid arrears in one instalment.
- (v) In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.

Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth on their own request under Rule 13(3)1(i)(b), 13(3)1(iv) or Rule 16B of the Army Rule 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP. It will be effective prospectively.

(b) and (c) Around 3200 representations for addressing the anomalies on OROP were received from individuals / Associations which were examined and issues referred to the Judicial Committee on OROP for its recommendations. The Committee has submitted its report on 26.10.2016.

Public Grievance Cell in the Department is receiving grievances of the pensioners / family pensioners and taking up the matter with the concerned offices e.g. Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension), etc for redressal of their grievances. Disposal of grievances is monitored at the highest level in the Government.

(d) Out of 20,81,072 OROP beneficiaries, 20,07,090 Pensioners have already received the first instalment and lumpsum payment on account of OROP. Further, in 15,66,486 cases, 2nd instalment have also been paid.

(e) A total of 73,982 Pensioners are yet to be benefited under OROP. Out of these 73,982 cases, details of approximately 30,000 missing information cases have been provided by Pension Sanctioning Authorities (PSAs) to various Pension Disbursing Agencies (PDAs) for making payment and in 29,612 cases payments have been discontinued due to non-identification of the pensioners.

Artillery guns for the army

4348. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army has not inducted a single artillery gun since mid 1980s;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to fulfil Army's urgent requirement of ultra-light artillery guns keeping in view the current scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Artillery modernisation is an on-going process. Acceptance of Necessity (AON) has been accorded for procurement of new artillery guns through five cases, including Ultra Light Howitzers (ULH) for which orders have already been placed.

Avoiding manufacturing and import of deadly weapons

4349. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take necessary steps to decrease the trend of manufacturing and also import of deadly weapons at International level in view of the sensitivity of these deadly weapons and use the money to be spend on import of these weapons, for overall development of the country and to manufacture the military equipment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various Indian as well as foreign vendors based on the threat perceptions, operational challenges and technological changes, to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.