

(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.