

taken in the Ministry to categorise 275 items being manufactured by Ordnance Factories as Non-core. These items are the items which can be easily procured by the Users from private sector directly.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. There will not be any job losses for employees of Ordnance Factories.

Corporates with NPAS in defence manufacturing

1773. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any corporates, which have NPAs with banks, are being approved for Defence sector manufacturing; and

(b) if so, the names of such corporate entities which were approved for Defence sector manufacturing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) This information is not collected and maintained.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

Grant of military service pay

1774. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to grant Military Service Pay (MSP) equally to all ranks in the light of Hon'ble High Court's direction in writ Petition No. 6607/2017 of 'Voice of Ex-Servicemen Society'; and

(b) whether Government contemplates to remove discrimination of MSP being paid at different rates, as MSP is a compensation to Armed Forces personnel as a recognition of special conditions of their service and superannuation of Defence personnel, particularly other ranks of younger age, is also a factor for grant of MSP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Delhi High Court in its order dated 28th November, 2017 has not given any specific direction to grant Military Service Pay (MSP) equally to all ranks. It may be informed that the Hon'ble Court in its order mentioned that the conduct of the petitioners in withholding material information and at the same time, trying to invoke equities under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is deprecated.

The 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) had considered all aspects with regard to applicability of MSP including the rates while making its recommendations. The Government after carefully considering the recommendations of the 7th CPC in respect of MSP has accepted the same and have already been notified.

Welfare of family members of armed forces personnel

†1775. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to formulate a special scheme for the welfare of Armed Forces personnels and their family members so that the Armed Forces personnel deployed on border remain assured about the security of their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any budgetary provision has been made for the proposed scheme under the budget for the financial year 2018-19; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal to formulate any special scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Chinese made steel bullets

†1776. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China-made steel bullets can pierce the bullet proof jackets provided to the armed forces;

(b) if so, the number of jawans, so far martyred due to these bullets; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Government has not received any report in this regard.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.