

the State of Andhra Pradesh and requested Andhra Pradesh Government for providing suitable land for development of these Air bases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any places have already been identified in the State for this purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) status of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has made a request for setting up of an Air Force Command and training base in Andhra Pradesh at Donakonda/Sagar Airfield, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Suryalanka.

Medical facilities for retired SSC officers

1460. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to deny medical facilities to retired Short Service Commission (SSC) officers and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Army has proposed to Government to make SSC more attractive, to bridge widening recruitment gap between officers in permanent commission and SSC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) details of other steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The Government has decided to formulate a special scheme to mitigate the hardships of Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) and Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs) in obtaining medical facilities after their release.

(b) to (d) Efforts are being made to make the Short Service Commission more attractive in consultation with the Armed Forces.

Women candidates in defence sector

1461. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any programme to attract girls to join Defence sector;