

viz. Helicopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Snow Scooters, Avalanches Detectors and Mountain clothing & equipment are being utilised by own troops.

Weather conditions in the snow bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir are also closely monitored by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) station at Sasoma and Srinagar. Due cognizance is taken of weather warnings issued by the SASE.

Steps to retrieve encroached defence land

34. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to retrieve encroached defence lands across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has put in place any mechanism to secure the lands belonging to defence estates from encroachment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) Detection, prevention and removal of encroachment is a continuous exercise. The Government has taken the following steps to retrieve encroached defence lands as well as to secure the lands belonging to defence estates from encroachment:

- (i) Respective user Services who manage defence land are responsible for its protection, removal of encroachments and planning for its land use.
- (ii) Strengthening of Defence land management by way of computerisation and digitisation of land records; Survey, demarcation and verification of defence lands and land Audit.
- (iii) Regular inspection of sites under respective jurisdiction is conducted by the CEO/DEO/Station Commander as the case may be.

- (iv) Issue of detailed instructions by the Government emphasising the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments.
- (v) Court cases are being pursued to evict encroachers.
- (vi) Close liaison is being maintained with revenue and civil police authorities to detect attempt to encroach upon the defence land by encroachers.
- (vii) Defence lands located in isolated locations are being fenced and regular patrolling is being carried out to safeguard the lands from encroachers and unauthorised construction.
- (viii) Removal of encroachments on defence land under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonment Act, 2006.

Status of Chief of Defence Staff

35. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the services conditions of newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff;
- (b) the details of the duties, functions and delegation of powers of the new CDS; and
- (c) the details of process and eligibility of CDS fixed for future appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The CDS is a four star General with salary and perquisites at par with Service Chiefs. The CDS will not be eligible to hold any Government office after demitting the office of CDS. He will not take up any private employment without prior approval of Government of India for the period of 5 years after demitting office of CDS.

(b) The duties and functions of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) include the following:

- (i) To head the Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.