

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th March, 2025

**DEFENCE PENSIONS AND PERSONNEL WELFARE UNDER BUDGETARY
ALLOCATION**

1162 SMT. REKHA SHARMA:
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the factors that contributed to the 13.5 per cent increase in defence pension allocation for 2025-26;
- (b) the manner in which the increased pension budget will benefit ex-servicemen, particularly under schemes like One Rank, One Pension (OROP);
- (c) whether there are any new initiatives planned for the welfare of active and retired defence personnel; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a): Increase in Defence pension allocation for the financial year (FY) 2025-26 is due to the third revision of pension of Armed Forces pensioners/family pensioners under One Rank One Pension (OROP) implemented with effect from 01.07.2024, estimated increase in number of pensioners during the financial year 2025-26 and expected hike in Dearness Relief during the financial year 2025-26.

(b): As mentioned in part (a) above, the increased pension budget will take care of the increase in monthly pension of the pensioners due to expected hike in Dearness Relief during the financial year 2025-26. In addition to this, increased pension budget will also fund the increase in pension due to third revision of pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP). It will ensure uniform pension to the Defence Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their date of retirement, which implies bridging the gap between the rates of pension of current and past pensioners.

(c) & (d): Various initiatives for welfare of Defence Personnel are carried out which is an ongoing process. This includes initiatives such as benefits like ex-gratia/ welfare schemes for battle casualties, physical casualties and for disabled soldiers, skilling and training for serving personnel to prepare them for retirement and second job opportunities, improving the living conditions, hygiene and waste management under Swachhta Action Plan, augmentation/ up-gradation of medical services, construction of married accommodation to overcome the shortfalls, renovation/revamp/reconstruction of family welfare centers, modern sports infrastructure, shopping centers and Unit Run Canteens, provisioning of recreational infrastructure, establishment of Crèche facilities, dedicated helpline for ensuring mental and physical well being etc.
