

(a) whether any fresh proposal in regard to privatisation of the Government hospitals in the country is under consideration of the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Defence Cooperation between India and USA**

417. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the defence cooperation between India and USA ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Government are pursuing a policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector, with various countries including the USA. Steps are being taken to give effect to this policy in a phased manner and to the extent necessitated by and consistent with national interest. During the visit of the US Defence Secretary to India in January 1995, and 'Agreed Minute' on Defence relations between India and USA was signed. It provides for civilian-to-civilian interaction, service-to-service cooperation and cooperation in the field of research and development.

[English]

#### **Poverty Eradication Programme**

418. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally decided to implement integrated urban poverty eradication programme announced by the P.M. last year on Independence day ;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified more than 600 class-II towns where slums are fast developing ;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided that the 345 towns will be covered in the first phase of the programme;

(d) if so, the details of the same ;

(e) the time by which the programme is likely to be implemented fully ; and

(f) the main objective of the plan and the number of persons likely to be benefitted by this plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). All the 345 Class II urban agglomerations in the country as per 1991 Census are identified for coverage under the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) .

(e) and (f). The objectives of the Programme are effective achievement of social sector goals, community empowerment, employment generation and skill upgradation, convergence and environmental improvement. Nearly 5 million urban poor would be benefitted in the entire Programme period of 5 years (1995-96 to 1999-2000).

[Translation]

#### **Expansion of Territorial Army**

419. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJBHUSAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for the expansion of the Government for expansion of territorial army with a view to reduce burden on the army and to curtail defence expenditure ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;