

(c) The STD services for Chandernagpur, Bhandara, and Garhchitoli is expected to be provided during the 7th Plan period, which will give them access not only to Nagpur and Delhi to the rest of the country.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Separate Ministry for Rehabilitation and Welfare of Ex-servicemen

4037. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a separate Ministry for Rehabilitation and Welfare of Ex-servicemen for speedy rehabilitation and helping the ex-servicemen; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the ex-servicemen in getting job opportunities and other benefits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARSIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The problem faced by the ex-servicemen have been studied in detail by a High Level Committee in 1984. The recommendations of the Committee are being processed in the Government. To mitigate the difficulties of the ex-servicemen in securing employment, the Government have from time to time taken appropriate policy initiatives, some of the more notable of which are as follows:

(i) A policy of reservation in recruitment to posts within the purview of the Central Government has been introduced, accompanied by relevant relaxation in the statutory provisions for the requisite educational qualifications and age restrictions. Similar steps have also been recommended to the State Government.

(ii) The policy of reservation has been also made applicable to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (and has been similarly recommended for adoption by the State Public Sector Undertakings).

(iii) Training is being imparted under various scheme to equip ex-servicemen both for salaried employment in the private sector as well as for self-employment.

(iv) Support is provided to ex-servicemen in engaging in gainful self-employment by means of sponsoring, with the Ministries/Governments concerned, a policy of priority/preferential allotment of commercial booths, agencies in various trading activities, transportation service, etc.

Pharmaceutical Units Working below the Capacity

4038. SHRI THAMPAN [THOMAS]: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of pharmaceutical units under his Ministry have been working below capacity due to shortage of raw material;

(b) if so, the particulars of the units which have not completed their full capacity indicating their original capacity; and

(c) the steps taken to revamp the utilisation of full capacity of these erring units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c): Production of some pharmaceutical units was affected because of inade-