

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Indian Army, the average age of commanding officers is 43 to 45 years.

There are a few shortages in the rank of captain and below. This however has not affected the operational potential of the Army.

(c) Some of the steps taken to reduce the deficiency in officer's cadre include (i) getting a large panel of successful candidates from UPSC by marginally lowering the cut off percentage in written examination but not lowering of standards at Service Selection Board; (ii) release of additional vacancies for direct entry to make up for the shortfall of Army Cadet College entry; and (iii) revival of University entry scheme and Short Service Commission (Technical) to broaden the base for selection. Measures taken to reduce the average age of commanding officers of battalion include liberalization of premature retirement policy in case of officers who stand superseded for the next rank.

Private Investment in Naval Dockyards

3286. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private investment in the Naval Dockyards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance to State Textile Corporation

3287. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat for assistance from the National Renewal Fund for restructuring of State Textile Corporation Limited, and for settlement of dues of workers of the closed mills, under liquidation during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has constituted a Steering Committee at the instance of the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Steering Committee has since made its recommendations; and

(e) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared and assistance from NRF given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The original proposal sought assistance amounting to Rs. 115.14 crores from the National Renewal Fund for

retrenchment compensation and rehabilitation of displaced workers.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The State Government have revised the proposal and the revised requirement of funds from NRF amounts to Rs. 96.83 crores.

(e) The revised proposal will be processed and decided upon after the modalities for operationalising NRF have been finalised.

Working Group of Chief Executives

3288. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group of Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings has made any recommendations to the Government on the issue of streamlining their operations and manpower development;

(b) if so, the details of the other recommendations made by the Group; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Working Group of Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings under the Deptt. of Heavy Industry has recommended trimming of the manpower, restructuring and re-designing of jobs, adoption of multiple-skill jobs, and intensive human resources development efforts in order to raise the productivity level.

(b) The other recommendations made by the Chief Executives include modernisation and restructuring of PSUs, financial support for revival of sick units, allowing PSUs to raise funds from the market etc.

(c) Decision will be taken on case to case basis.

Satellite Township of Jammu

3289. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for setting up a satellite township near Jammu city has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the projects; and

(d) the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No proposal regarding setting up of a Satellite township of Jammu has been received/ approved by Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Development of Slums in Orissa

3290. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: