

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The total number of posts found vacant in the Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates in 1990 are 4862 and 1706 posts out of them have been filled up so far.

[English]

**Delay in Accepting Contracts
by M.E.S.**

852. MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that huge extra-costs are incurred due to delay in decision making in finalising and accepting the contracts by Military Engineers Service (MES), resulting in cost-escalation and re-tendering;

(b) whether the Government are aware that persons vested with authority to accord "Financial Concurrence (FC)" have no responsibility for the delay and cost escalation;

(c) the number of FC cases which were not cleared by due date by Army Headquarters and Ministry of Defence resulting in re-tendering during each of the last three financial years.

(d) the additional cost vis-a-vis the FC cases not cleared in the first time during each of the last three financial years; and

(e) the initial cost, various subsequently projected increases and present status of

Research and referral (R&R) Hospital, New Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e). All project proposals of Defence Services including financial concurrence cases are approved by a designated competent authority after technical and financial scrutiny depending upon the value of the project in accordance with the defence works procedure. Government have issued detailed guidelines with stipulated time schedules for timely initiation of all tendering proposals and their systematic examination at various levels in order to ensure accountability. These remedial measures have been taken to reduce time delays and cost escalation brought to the notice of the Government in a few important cases. As such, no necessity has been felt to carry out a detailed study of all the financial concurrence cases involving re-tendering during the last three years.

2. As regards the research & referral Hospital project, the administrative approval was initially accorded for Rs. 52.64 crores in November, 1987 and subsequently amended to Rs. 52.92 crores in September, 1990. The revised estimated cost of the project as approved by the CCPA in August, 1993 is Rs. 70.9 crores. The project is in an advanced of execution.

Dues Against Ex-Ministers/Ex-MPS

853. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on August 25, 1993 to Unstarred Question No. 4505 regarding dues against Ex-Ministers/Ex-MPS. and state:

(a) the names of Ex-Ministers, Ex-MPs