

Opening of Canteen for Ex-Military Personnel

8295. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing procedure for opening canteens for ex-military personnel in the (i) cities (ii) villages;

(b) the names of the places in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh where the canteen are functioning at present;

(c) if so, whether any demand for opening more canteens has been received by Government;

(d) if so, the names of such places in each one of the above mentioned States; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) There is no canteen set up exclusively for ex-servicemen. All ex-servicemen are, however, authorised to draw their requirements of Canteen Stores through the nearest and conveniently located Unit Canteens of the regular Armed Forces to which the ex-servicemen may be attached by the Station Headquarters.

(b) Until canteen are functioning in all Military Stations with Units and Formations of regular Armed Forces. The names of such places where units and formations are located cannot be disclosed for reasons of security.

(c) to (e). A demand for opening canteens in Himachal Pradesh for the ex-servicemen was received. The demand was examined and was not accepted because of administrative and financial constraints.

Basis of Recruitment to various Regiments

8296. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of recruitment to the various regiments of the Army;

(b) whether there has been any change in the basis in the recent years;

(c) if so, the exact nature of the change and whether the percentage of quota for certain States has gone down considerably on the adoption of the new basis after 1971;

(d) if so, whether Government have received any representation against the reduction in this quota;

(e) if so, the action taken by Government on the representation;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the likely date by which action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Recruitment to the officer cadre in the Army is made through open competition on an all India basis. In case of other Ranks, recruitment is open to all classes, subject to physical and other requirement, based on recruitable male population of each State except in case of certain class regiments to which recruitment is confined to some classes residing in specified areas;

(b) The decision to broad base recruitment to the Indian Army was taken in the year 1949, which was further improved upon in the year 1971 when it was decided that recruitment to 'all class' regiments will be made on the basis of recruitable male population of each State.

(c) No, Sir. It is not a fact that as a result of the policy adopted in 1971 the recruitment from some States to the Indian Army has gone down considerably.