

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With the improvement in load factors and induction of more economical aircraft, the economic viability of Vayudoot is expected to improve considerably.

Stagnation in cadre of Stenographers, Grade 'C' in Armed force, Headquarters

4156. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute stagnation in the cadre of Stenographers Grade 'C' in the Armed Forces Headquarters;

(b) the number of Stenographers Grade 'C' who have put in more than 15 years of service but have not received even their first promotion;

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the promotion prospects of this category of Stenographers;

(d) Whether hundreds of Stenographers Grade 'C' working in the Armed Forces Headquarters are still clamouring for their very first promotion to Stenographer Grade 'B'; if so, reasons thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take immediately to ensure that at least Stenographers Grade 'C' who have put in 13-14 years or more service are given promotion so as to remove the discontentment and demoralisation amongst them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) There is stagnation in Grade 'C' of the AFHQ

Stenographers Service but this is not peculiar to the AFHQ only.

(b) 185.

(c) To mitigate stagnation, the following steps have been taken so far:—

(i) 103 Selection Grade posts (Rs. 650-960) sanctioned with effect from 1-8-1976;

(ii) 63 posts of Steno Grade 'C' upgraded to Steno Grade 'B' on ad hoc basis (45 from 6-8-1977 and 18 from 10-12-1979);

(iii) 19 posts of Steno Grade 'C' upgraded to Steno Grade 'B' on 5-8-1982 consequent to the upgradation of the Service Officer posts.

(d) and (e) 344 Stenographers Grade 'C' are yet to get their first promotion. This includes 185 those who have rendered more than 15 years of service in the grade.

The question regarding the improvement of career prospects of Stenographers is being examined by the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, in which the Ministry of Defence are also participating.

Norms for production of salt in case of Exporters

4157. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been fixed for the production of salt in case of exporters of salt;

(b) if so, from what date the norms will be applicable;

(c) whether Coramandel Mini Salt Association of Tuticorin has been permitted to export salt; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?