

(c) whether the recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission to improve their pay scales and service conditions have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The cadre structure of Censorship Organisation in the Directorate General of Military Intelligence of the Army Headquarter was examined by the 5th Central Pay Commission which *inter alia* recommended restructuring of the cadre of Examiners.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission for restructuring the cadre have been implemented with the issuance of Government letter on 28th October, 1997. In the restructured cadre-9 posts of Supervisory Examiner have been re-designated as Examiner-I in the pay scale of Rs. 6500-200-10500, 20 posts of Examiner-II have been created in the pay scale of Rs. 5500-175-9000; and 12 posts of Assistant Examiner have been upgraded and merged with Examiner in the pay scale of Rs. 5000-150-8000 and re-designated as Examiner-III.

(e) Does not arise.

Chinese Arms to Pak

3481. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pakistan set to buy more weapons from China" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 17, 1999;

(b) if so, whether China has increased the sale of its arms to the neighbouring countries of India;

(c) if so, whether this has posed a great threat to the Indian security; and

(d) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) China is known to be supplying arms to India's neighbouring countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. However, there are no confirmed reports to suggest any major recent increase in this activity.

(c) and (d) All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.

Flights between Mauritius and India

3482. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Mauritius has tied up fresh marketing arrangement with Air India following an increase in passenger traffic between Mauritius and India;

(b) if so, the main details of the pact signed between Air Mauritius and Air India; and

(c) the extent to which there has been an increase of passenger traffic between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Air India and Air Mauritius have signed a Joint Venture Agreement for operation of flights on Mauritius-India-Mauritius route for the year 1999-2000.

(b) The Agreement envisages operation of three flights per week during the period from 1.4.1999 to 4.2.2000 and two flights from 5.2.2000 to 31.3.2000 on Mauritius-Mumbai-Mauritius route and one flight per week during the period from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2000 on Mauritius-Delhi-Mauritius route, by Air Mauritius in Joint Venture with Air India on profit sharing basis.

(c) The air traffic between India and Mauritius has increased from 51998 in 1996-97 to 58195 in 1997-98.

Pilgrim Rest Houses

3483. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: