

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1870
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
APPOINTMENT ON MARTIAL COMMUNITY
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the process of recruitment of officers and soldiers in all the three wings of the Defence forces, a misconception over the martial community has been existing since the British period itself as people belonging to some particular castes in each cadre, have made their stronghold at all levels of the defence forces;
- (b) whether due to caste based prejudices, the majority of officers who make recruitment and are having a perverted attitude towards this misconception of a `martial community`;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide sufficient jobs to brave, fearless and hardworking people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes and those of the deprived castes in the defence forces through a Special Recruitment Drive without consideration of castes; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the recruitment drive is likely to be taken place?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the country including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Class candidates without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. The basic objective of the Recruitment Policy of the Armed Forces is to obtain the best manpower from the youth of the country while at the same time giving equal opportunity to all citizens of India to join the Armed Forces.

No Special Recruitment Drive based on caste/tribes is intended.

(d) Does not arise.