

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6589

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002

POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR APPOINTMENT PROMOTION AND TRANSFER

A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;RENU KUMARI SINGH;SHYAMA SINGH;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several high ranking officials in the Defence Forces are lobbying for political support for appointment, promotions and transfers etc.;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether there is no transparency in selection of officers for promotions and transfers in Defence Forces;

(d) if so, whether the influence of politicians and money are playing major role in providing promotions and transfers in Defence forces; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent interference of politicians and money in promotion, appointments and transfers in Defence Forces?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): No instances of lobbying by senior officers of the Defence Forces for political support for any appointment, promotion & transfers, have come to notice except the case of Air Marshal M S Sekhon in the Indian Air Force. Subsequent to the report published in the media regarding Air Marshal M S Sekhon having approached the then Chief Minister of Punjab seeking political influence for a favourable posting, which has been admitted by the Air Officer, he was asked to put in his papers and the officer has complied. This case of seeking political help by a service officer has been viewed seriously and exemplary action has been taken by the Government for such a misconduct.

(c) to (e): Promotions and transfers in the Defence Forces are done with the requisite level of transparency commensurate to organisational interests.