

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
RESTRUCTURING OFFICERS` CADRE
DAHYA BHAI V. PATEL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence to examine proposals for restructuring of the Officers` Cadre of the Army;
- (b) if so, whether the said Committee has since submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, by when;
- (d) the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and
- (e) the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected by the Government and the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e): The Committee identified two inter-related issues at the core of the structural imbalances referred to by the Army Headquarters i.e. high age profile and cadre stagnation. In order to achieve the objective of bringing down the age profile and to improve the promotional prospects, certain short term and long term measures have been recommended by the Committee. The short term measures include additional deputational vacancies and lateral absorption, tenures outside the Army, exit through voluntary severance scheme and creation of additional appointments.

A lean regular cadre and an enhanced support cadre have been identified as the ideal long term solution to lower the age profile in the Army. The necessary ratio between regular and support cadres and measures to make the support cadre more attractive, have been recommended to be worked out pragmatically.

Since the recommendations encompass a wide spectrum service related issues, no specific time-frame for implementation can be indicated as it involves consultation with various agencies.