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- Each project is of one year duration. Under Each project 100 centres are allowed and each centre can enrol 25 to 30 nonliterates in the age-group of 15-35 years.
- The projects are not under implementation and the grant is adjusted in Strengthening of Administrative Structure (SAS) for
- @@ Reimbursement of expenditure of earlier years.

Written Answers

[English]

Selection Standards for NDA and M.A.

3554. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the selection standards for entry into the National Defence Academy and Military Academy have been lowered recently;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such a decision is going to affect adversely on the efficiency of the army; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

3555. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government feels that rapid modernisation of the armed forces is necessary to keep pace with changing security needs and improve the county's defence preparedness to meet the real and potential threats to our security; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Government are continually engaged in the strengthening and modernising of our Armed Forces. The pace of modernisation, is based inter alia on the prevailing and long term potential threat perceptions. It will not be in national security interest to disclose details of the modernisation programmes.

Referal Centres for AIDS

3556. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Referal Centres set up under the AIDS Control Programme in the country till December, 1996:
- (b) the number of Zonal Blood Testing Centres established till December, 1996; and
- (c) the names and locations of Medical Colleges in the country having upgraded facilities for HIV infected persons and AIDS cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) 9 HIV Reference Centres have been set up under the AIDS Control Programme in the country so far. A list is enclosed as statement-I.

- (b) There are 154 Zonal Blood Testing Centres established under National AIDS Control Programme. A list is enclosed as statement-II.
 - (c) A list is enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement-I

List of HIV Reference Centres

- National Institute of Communicable Disease, Delhi.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
- 3. Indian Institute of Immunohematology, Bombay.
- National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta.
- 5. School of Tropical Medicines, Calcutta.
- 6. Madras Medical College, Madras.
- National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune. 7
- Regional Medical College, Imphal.
- Christian Medical College, Vellore.