

Pay Revision of Employees of BSI

6895. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a section of employees of the Botanical survey of India have not been granted the pay revision as per recommendations of the Third Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the personnel so denied their due scales and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to pay them their due pay revision benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Naval Fleet

6896. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to modernise and expand the Indian Naval fleet; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan drawn up for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a). The modernisation of the Naval Fleet is being done in accordance with the requirements of the Indian Navy, taking into account the prevailing threat scenario.

(b) The modernisation plans of the

Navy include replacement of old ships, submarines and aircraft by more modern and sophisticated units and the induction of advanced technology equipment in order to enhance the Navy's operational capabilities.

F-404 Engines for L.C.A.

6897. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to procure U.S. 'F-404' engines for the Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) if so, the alternative proposals that were under consideration for providing an engine for the LCA; and

(c) the outstanding features that have gone in favour of the US engine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No Sir. However, limited number of US F-404 engines have been procured for initial prototypes of LCA. The production version of the LCA is proposed to be powered by an indigenous engine.

(b). The General Electric F-404 and Rolls Royce RB-199 were examined only against the interim power plant requirements for the LCA prototypes providing phase.

(c) The Evaluation Committee for selection of interim engine for the LCA recommended the GE-404 engine based on operability, maintainability, reliability, availability and state-of-the-art technologies. Among the available engines in the world for this type of aircraft, F-404, modified to our requirement, is the only certified engine that has the highest thrust-to-weight ratio and which has the most powerful power plant.