

result of which they have declared lay-off in their factories. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister would take steps to provide them with the raw materials to run their factories and whether Government have taken any steps in this regard ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, the Hon. Member has asked a supplementary question about soda ash whereas the main question relates to fertilisers. Soda ash is not a fertiliser. Soda ash is being produced in our country. When we ask the manufacturers, they say that its production is sufficient to meet the demand for soda ash. Sometimes, a complaint is received that soda ash is not available to the people. That is why soda ash has been kept under O.G.L. When a party is not able to get soda ash, it is made available by importing it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the progress of the fertiliser plant at Rourkela in Orissa.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I require notice for this. I do not have the information with me.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : In view of the large scale availability of natural gas in Assam and Tripura, may I know whether Government has any plan to set up a gas-based fertiliser plant there which will remove the industrial backwardness of this area and also increase the production ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised. Therefore, it is not possible for me to say how many units are going to come.

Vacancies of Doctors in Medical Corps

*447. **SHRI G.G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the courses for education and training offered by the Army Medical Corps have been fully availed of;

(b) the number of doctors required by the Army Medical Corps in different disciplines and whether all the vacancies are filled, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Doctors in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) include General Duty Doctors and Specialists. The authorised strengths and the shortages are :

	Authorised Strength	Shortage
General Duty		
Doctors	3320	420
Specialists	1635	33

While the total shortage of Doctors in the Army Medical Corps works out to 9.14% of the authorised strength, in the Specialist Disciplines the shortage is only 2%.

(c) The reasons for the shortage are :

- (i) Availability of better prospects in the outside market;
- (ii) Rigours of the Service; and
- (iii) Periodic increase in the authorised strength of the Army Medical Corps against a given volume of recruitment, increasing the shortfall in the concerned year.

In addition, I may inform the Hon Member that every year there are certain resignations agreed to by the Government on compassionate grounds and those numbers are also added on to the number of shortages.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : It is refreshing to hear the Minister to say that all the facilities offered by the Army are being availed of and the shortages are marginal. Still, I would like to know what is the number of seats offered by the Armed

Forces Medical College at Pune; how many qualify yearly and how does that figure compare with the 135 doctors especially in the Specialist Class who are reported to be retiring every year seeking premature retirement? After 20 years they get pension and they can retire and this is just the period where these doctors reach the peak of their expertise but they get away because of the state of better facilities abroad or in the open market. I would like to know whether these figures may really make anything.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The intake of AFMC is 130. But from the AFMC we are getting every year in the neighbourhood of 90—between 78 and 91 it has varied and evidently the passing percentage is a little low. From direct recruitment from 1982-84, we have got 105 in 1982, 305 in 1983 and 350 in 1984. Evidently we are making up for the deficiency and I hope in the next 1 or 2 years there will be no shortage.

Then, on the specialists side, the shortages really are marginal; for instance, surgery—authorisation—269 and availability—264. So this is just a shortage of 5. Only in one discipline, *viz.* Anaesthesia we have a shortage of 10. In other disciplines it is just 2, 3, 4—like that. I do not think it is a serious shortage, but I would certainly like to assure the Hon. Member that even this shortage will be made good.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Is it correct that the best talents of the country, our brightest youngmen do not come forward to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Army? If that is true, why?

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of improving the facilities offered to our specialists so that they are not tempted to seek premature retirement and remain here and give of their best to the Army to the very last that they can do, whether you are thinking in terms of raising their salaries, their promotion prospects and other facilities that you are offering to them because specialists are in the market and everywhere and unless we do something on that line we cannot retain them.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have already submitted that the volume of recruitment being what it is, the shortage is only of the order of 2% in the specialists class. So I do not think it is serious and even this 2%, may be made good and because of the resignations on compassionate grounds—it is not for greener pastures that they are allowed to go, let me add here it is only on compassionate grounds that resignations are allowed by the Government. So, I think whether there is any deficiency, wherever there is anything to be improved in the service conditions.

That is an on-going process. I don't think it will be possible for us to give emoluments comparable to those given to them in other countries in order to retain them here. That is not going to be possible. But within the means, within our own limitations, whatever is possible is being done; and as I said, it is an on-going process,

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Will the Hon Minister consider the prospects of improving the prospects of candidates opting for Army Service, so as to attract specialists and other candidates in larger numbers to fill up the existing vacancies? It is not desirable to keep the vacancies for long as their services are very essential for the security of the country.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : At the Specialists' level, as I have already submitted, a drop of 2 percent, as of now, is not serious and we can make it up in the next one or two years. As I have already pointed out, the process of making condition of service more attractive is an on-going process. There is no such emergency as to consider as a special case right now what needs to be done in order to attract them more and more. In fact, our officers are going to the medical colleges every year and are paying Rs, 7200 to selected final year MBBS students. After the MBBS student passes, he is given a permanent commission in the Army. So, all that needs to be done, is being done. But, as I said this is an on-going process. If there are any specific suggestions in this regard, we can always consider them.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Is it a

fact that due to amalgamation of two different cadres in the Armed Medical Corps—I think they are Administrative and Specialists Cadres—some senior officers were to retire and some junior officers of another cadre were promoted? Now, what happened was, as a result of that they went to the Court and won their case and had to be reinstated. Will the Hon. Minister kindly enquire into the cause of such frequent changes of rules by which some officers get benefit and others are harmed, which affects the morale of the officers in the Army?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am not able to answer the specific question. If the Hon Member could give me some details, I will certainly look into the matter.

Sixth Annual Conference of the International Chamber of Commerce held in Seoul

*448. **SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether an Indian delegation of industrialists participated in the Sixth Annual Conference of the International Chamber of Commerce held recently in Seoul, and

(b) if so, whether Government have received a report on the outcome of the discussions held at the Conference and other details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, The Indian National Committee, a non-official body, which is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce sponsored a 14-member delegation to the conference held on the 25th—28th March, 1985 at Seoul.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon Minister has replied in

the negative to part (b) of the question. I would, therefore, like to ask when this report would be available. I would also like to know whether the matter was considered at Government level before sending the delegation? Before a delegation from the Private Sector, etc., goes abroad, are consultations held keeping in view the Government's policy so that there is no contradiction between the Government's economic policy and the viewpoint of the delegation?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had said in my reply, this was a non-official body and it had sent a delegation of 14 members to participate in this conference. They are not bound to submit a report to the Government after their return. Therefore, it is not possible to say when they would submit their report.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : The Hon Minister has of course, given a reply. But we want that a report, should be submitted to Government and there should be a discussion on that keeping in view Government's economic policies so that the industrialists could get the guidelines. The Hon Minister has just now said that it is not obligatory, for them to do so. I am insisting because Government are very much dependent on the Private Sector. That is the feeling of the people and such an atmosphere has been created. I would like to know whether Government are adopting any new policy to exercise control over the Private Sector?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Policies and rules are already laid down. We depend on both the sectors, the Private sector as well as the Public Sector, and we want both the sectors to grow.

MR. SPEAKER : But the law can be changed(Interruptions)

[English]

Request for Raising "Andhra Regiment"

*449. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :