

**Procurement of Blankets**

\*156. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not introducing blankets developed by the Shoddy Industry which have duly been approved by the Research and Development Wing of the Defence Ministry ;

(b) price of 'A' Type blankets being paid to private manufacturers, British India Corporation and National Textile Corporation ;

(c) whether blankets other than 'A' type have been acquired from BIC, NTC/ other Government units ; and

(d) total quantum of blankets in arrears against orders placed and not yet supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Special Flying Squads for Women**

\*157. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether special flying squads to speedily respond to calls by women in distress and by women's organisations, are proposed to be set up in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the steps so far taken for implementing it ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Recently the Department of Women's Welfare, Ministry of Human Resources, Government of India, has recognised four national level voluntary organisations to assist women in distress, under the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984. Further, a Crimes against Women Cell has been set up in Delhi police to deal exclusively with offences against women.

**Proposal to Raise Age Limit for Central Government Service**

\*158. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to raise the age limit for entering service under Central Government to 35 years; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government have taken in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**State Councils for Science and Technology**

\*159 SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States and Union Territories which have established State Council for Science and Technology; and

(b) the role chalked out for these Councils during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS & SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL) : (a) Nineteen States, Eight Union Territories and the North Eastern Region have set up State Councils for Science and Technology.

(b) The State Councils are envisaged to help in :-

1. Formulation, planning co-ordination and promotion of S&T activities in the States.
2. Preparing State S&T Plans.
3. Compilation and dissemination of S&T information.