

STATEMENT II

Date as on	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength	Vacancies
1st April, 1988	26	17	9
1st April, 1989	26	20	6
1st April, 1990	26	25	1
1st April, 1991	26	23	3

Cancellation of Right of Occupation and Continuation of Lessees in Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut Cantonment Areas

397. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Defence Estates, Lucknow and the Government have received any representation during the past three months from the residents of Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut cantonments for cancelling the right of occupation and continuation of lessees in the leasehold land premises where the lease periods have since expired, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the erstwhile lessees ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment of SCs/STs in Armed Forces

398. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is

much less in three Services of the Armed Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force); and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to give proper representation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Armed Forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Selection to all ranks in the Armed Forces is open to all eligible Indian nationals, irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion. As such, there is no reservation quota in favour of any caste, tribe or community.

[English]

Manufacture of Infantry Weapons

399. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has achieved self-sufficiency in manufacture of small arms and ammunition in relation to re-equipping of the infantry,

(b) if so, whether such infantry weapons are comparable with small arms developed and in use by other countries, in efficiency, quality and cost-wise ;

(c) the contribution made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (D.R.D.O.) in that regard;

(d) whether there is any scope for export promotion of such small arms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) All Infantry weapons requirements of the Army are being met indigenously. The existing family of Small Arms in use in the Infantry is proposed to be replaced, in a phased manner, by a new Small Arms System, designed and developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation in association with the Ordnance Factories, which is lighter, more handy and accurate and equipped with superior firepower. While the new Weapons System is comparable with those in use in other countries on efficiency and quality, the cost comparison can be drawn only after establishment of its bulk production.

(d) and (e) Exports can be considered only after meeting the total internal requirements.

Modernisation of Indian Air Force

400. SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to modernise the Indian Air Force and also to plan for renewal and replacement of certain categories of armaments;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the report of Arun Singh Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Air Force, to keep pace with national security requirements, is a continuous process. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Singh, was established to examine matters relating to Defence Expenditure.

[Translation]

Uniform Civil Code

401. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce uniform Civil Code for all citizens;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Introduction of Uniform Civil Code for all citizens will necessarily involve changes in the personal laws of minority communities. The consistent policy of the Government has been not to interfere on its own in the personal