

Recruitment of Women in Military

426. **SHRI SANTOSHI KUMAR GANGWAR**: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to recruit women in other fields of the military besides Army Medical Corps and Military Nursing Service ; and

(b) if so, when the said proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Proposals of the three Defence services regarding the induction of women in selected branches received by the Govt. are under examination for an early decision.

[*English*]

Procurement of Speed-Boats Lakshadweep

427. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED**: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of speed-boats being procured for Lakshadweep as per the provision made in the plan ;

(b) the name of the country and the manufacturing company with which the order has been placed ;

(c) the specified speed of the boats in aviation knots ;

(d) the time of the delivery of boats fixed by the Government and whether the same is being adhered to ; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the approximate time by which the

boats are likely to be received and pressed into service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Two

(b) Orders have been placed on M/s Tille Scheepsbouw, Netherlands.

(c) 25 knots.

(d) The contractual delivery date for the two ferries was 12-9-90 at Cochin. The same has not been adhered to by the builders.

(e) The main reasons for delay have non-performance of the contract by the Yard and their sub contractors, problems with weld joints due to improper welding, dispute with the Yard on recovery of liquidated damages for delayed delivery and release of stage payment etc. The two ferries are now almost ready for shipment and are expected to reach Cochin by mid September, 1991, subject to a settlement being arrived at with the Yard. The ferries will be commissioned for operation soon after they are delivered.

Procurement of Mechanised Barges for Lakshadweep

428. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED**: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some mechanised barges are being procured for Lakshadweep ;

(b) the date when order was placed and with whom specifying the number of such mechanised barges ;

(c) the date of delivery as per the order ;

(d) whether the date of delivery has not been adhered to ;

(e) whether any penalty clause was there in the agreement ;

(f) whether extension of time has been granted ; and

(g) whether the price of the barges would be escalated due to lapse of time and consequently upset the budget provisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYLTER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders were placed on 30-5-89 with M/s Alcock Ashdown & Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar for construction and delivery of four nos. cargo barges of 300 DWT each.

(c) As per the contract, the dates of delivery of the four barges are 20-2-91, 17-4-91, 12-6-91 and 7-8-91, respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir. Though the contractual delivery dates for the first three vessels are already over, the vessels have not been delivered so far. The delivery of the fourth vessel is also likely to be delayed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Yard has sought extension of time for delivery but no decision has been taken by the Government so far.

(g) The contracts entered into with the Yard do not provide for any escalation except for increase in price

on account of exchange rate variation during the pendency of the contract. The Yard has, however, sought increase in price of the barges due to changes in statutory rules after signing of the contract and on account of certain modifications carried out to meet the technical specifications. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard so far.

Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

429. SHRI KANSHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government has requested for extension of the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme in case of partial closure/partial reopening ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the request of Reserve Bank of India for lending to new managements who are willing to re-open the closed textile mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to extend the scheme to partially closed mills due to funds constraints.

(c) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat for relaxation of norms for grant of working capital to sick textile units was discussed in a meeting with representatives of Department of Banking, Reserve Bank of India, Industrial Development Bank