

(b) if so, the reasons for deviation from the well accepted past conventions/rules/orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). The position in regard to the increase in the age-limits of retirement of officers of the rank of Brigadier and above, and the corresponding ranks in the Navy and Air Force is as follows:—

ARMY

The maximum ages of retirement for officers of the rank of Brigadier and above were uniformly increased by 2 years for each rank, in December, 1976, except in the case of Medical, Dental, Remount, Veterinary & Farms Corps and Special list officers and Army Officers permanently seconded to Research, Development and Inspection Organisations. This revision has not caused any general resentment; on the other hand, it has been generally welcomed by the Officer Cadre, as ages of retirement of officers below the rank of Brigadiers have also been increased in most cases.

The retirement ages have been revised in order to derive optimum benefit from the experience and knowledge of officers, without compromising the requirements of physical fitness.

NAVY AND AIR FORCE

There has been no enhancement in the age-limit of retirement for Officers in ranks equivalent to Brigadier and above, in the Navy and the Air Force.

Reviving of Press Council

5080. **SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1330 on the 22nd June, 1977 regarding reviving of Press Council and state the action taken or

contemplated to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): In the light of discussions with the representatives of leading Press Organisations in the country, details are being worked out.

Supply of water in Ambala Cantonment

5081. **SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in M.E.S. Ambala Cantonment huge amount has been expended during the last few years to improve the supply of water by fixing up deep tube wells;

(b) if so, the total amount of expenditure made during the last three years and total number of tube wells;

(c) whether supply of water has not yet improved because most of the tube wells are remaining unworkable; and

(d) if so, steps being taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (d). Prior to the excision of civil areas in Ambala Cantonment on 5.2.1977, there were 15 tube wells under the control of the Cantonment Board. As a result of excision, 14 have been transferred to the Notified Area Committee, Ambala and there is only one tube well under the control of the Board. This tube well caters to the needs of the civil population of Thop Khana Bazaar of the Cantonment.

2. Water supply in the remaining areas is arranged by MES 45 tube wells were constructed by the Military Engineering service till 1970. In course of last seven years 10 tube wells of normal depth of 150 to 180 metres were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 55.07 lakhs out of which six have been commissioned, the