

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Estates Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)']

ELEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2025 / Sravana 1947 (Saka)

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(2024-25)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.08.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.08.2025



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2025 / Sravana 1947 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

–

CHAIRPERSON

Lok Sabha

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Adhikari Deepak Dev
5	Shri Ranjit Dutta
6	Captain Viriato Fernandes
7	Shri Rahul Gandhi
8	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
9	Shri S. Jagathratchakan
10	Ms. S. Jothimani
11	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
12	Shri Shashank Mani
13	Shri Lumba Ram
14	Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
15	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
16	Shri Jagadish Shettar
17	Shri Virendra Singh
18	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
19	Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan
20	Com. Selvaraj V.
21	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

22	Shri Naresh Bansal
23	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
24	Shri Prem Chand Gupta
25	Shri Naveen Jain
26	Shri Muzibulla Khan
27	Shri Praful Patel
28	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
29	Shri Sanjay Singh
30	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi
31	Vacant*

**Shri N. Chandrasegharan ceased to be a Member of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25) w.e.f. 25 July, 2025 consequent upon cessation of his Membership of Rajya Sabha on 24 July, 2025.*

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Juby Amar | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Ajay Kumar Prasad | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Tenzin Gyaltsen* | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Smt. Preeti Negi | - | Committee Officer |

****served in the Committee Branch till 14.07.2025***

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Eleventh Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Estates Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)'.

2. The First Report (18th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 2024. The Report contained 27 Observations/Recommendations. The Ministry of Defence furnished Action Taken Replies on all the Observations/Recommendations in May, 2025.

3. The Report was adopted at the Sitting held on 5th August, 2025.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence is given in Appendix II.

**New Delhi;
05 August, 2025
14 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)**

**RADHA MOHAN SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Defence**

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Defence deals with Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Estates Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)', which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17 December, 2024.

2. The First Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Committee contained 27 Observations/Recommendations on the following aspects:-

Para No.	Subject
General Defence Budget	
1	Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2024-25: A bird's eye view
2	Defence Budget 2024-25
3	Utilization of Defence Budget 2023-24
4	Budget allocation to the Services
5	Modern warfare
6	Emergency procurement
Border Roads Organisation	
7	Budgetary Allocation to BRO
8	Challenges faced in execution of projects
9	Sharing of technology by BRO with other agencies
Indian Coast Guard	
10	Budget 2024-25
11	Stray Incident of leaking of sensitive information
Defence Estates Organisation	
12	Budgetary provision

13	Excision of civil areas of select Cantonments and their merger with adjoining municipalities
14	Interests of the Civil Population in Cantonment Areas
15	Civic and welfare facilities in the Cantonment Areas
Defence Public Sector Undertakings	
16	Profitability of the DPSUs
17	Indigenization efforts and self reliance in Defence sector
18	Delivery of products/equipment/platforms by DPSUs
19	Defence Start ups
20	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
Welfare of Ex-Servicemen	
21	Budget
22	Re-settlement of ESM
23	Re-settlement avenues for ESM
24	Facilities for ESM
25	Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)
	Defence Pension
26	Budgetary Provisions
27	SPARSH-System for Pension Administration (RAKSHA)

3. The Action Taken Replies have been received from the Government in respect of 27 Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) in May, 2025. Replies to these Observations/Recommendations have been examined and categorized as follows:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II)

Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22, 23,24,25,26 and 27 (Total - 27)

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (Chapter III):

Para No. Nil

(Total -0)

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration (Chapter IV):

Para No. Nil

(Total - 0)

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V):

Para No. Nil

(Total - 0)

4. The Committee desire that the Action Taken Notes in respect of comments of the Committee contained in Chapter I of the Report should be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case, not later than six months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Observations/Recommendations made in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) in the succeeding paragraphs.

General Defence Budget

A. Utilization of Defence Budget 2023-24

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

6. The Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee, on scrutiny of the budgetary documents furnished by the Ministry of Defence, note that out of the amount of ₹ 6,23,888.94 crore allocated for total Defence Budget at Revised Estimates 2023-24 stage, the actual expenditure incurred for Financial Year 2023-24 is ₹ 6,09,853.98 crore. During deliberations, the Committee were apprised that global geo-political situation causing supply chain disruptions and efforts made by the Indian Defence Industry in achieving greater self-reliance in Defence manufacturing led to some delays in projects fructification and incomplete utilization of funds. The Committee hope that

measures would be put in place to ensure full utilization of funds in the coming years.”

7. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

“The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and it is stated that progress of expenditure is reviewed from time to time to ensure that the budgetary allocations are fully utilized. Further, necessary instructions are also issued for compliance with financial propriety norms and avoidance of overspending/underutilization of funds. The Committee may be assured that all efforts are made to ensure optimum utilization of available resources.”

Comments of the Committee

8. The Committee in their First Report had noted that with respect to the issue of budget allocation and utilization, required measures would be put in place to ensure full utilization of funds in the coming years. Consequently, the Ministry of Defence in its Action Taken Reply has submitted that in this regard, the progress of expenditure is reviewed from time to time to ensure that budgetary allocations are gainfully utilized. Further, necessary instructions are also issued for compliance with financial propriety norms to ensure avoidance of overspending and underutilization of funds. The Committee during examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2025-26, noted that out of the amount of ₹ 6,41,060 crore allocated for total Defence Budget at RE 2024-25 stage, the actual expenditure incurred upto December 2024 was ₹ 4,53,010.39 crore i.e., approximately 71 percent. The Committee therefore reiterate that henceforth, the funds be optimally utilised towards ensuring steadfast adherence to principles of fiscal prudence and propriety by the Ministry of Defence in letter and spirit, while also instituting measures to avoid surrender of funds allocated for the vital sectors of Defence. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the details of utilization of funds for FY 2024-25 by the Ministry at the stage of furnishing Action Taken Statements.

B. Modern warfare

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

9. The Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee are cognizant that a paradigm shift in the strategy of warfare is taking place in contemporary theatre of war where non-conventional means such as non-kinetic warfare, cyber warfare, cognitive warfare etc. are being increasingly employed. The Committee learn that efforts are ongoing to increase our capabilities in this modern warfare and have every reason to believe that with right combination of strategy, morale and infrastructure, our country will be at par with other advanced countries. In this regard, the Committee recommend that urgent and coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders i.e. the Ministry of Defence, Services, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings etc. may be made to achieve excellence in hybrid and modern war tactics”

10. The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

“The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Modernisation of Armed Forces ensure that existing capabilities remain relevant efficient and integrated with contemporary technologies. The synergy between Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), Services HQs, DRDO and the Department of Defence Production (DDP)/MoD is fundamental to advancing India's defence self-reliance and strengthening its strategic capabilities. As India aims to modernize its Armed Forces and reduce dependency on foreign imports, this collaboration ensures a seamless alignment of operational requirements, indigenous manufacturing and policy execution.

HQ IDS serves as the apex organization to foster Jointness amongst three services. It is responsible for consolidating operational requirements, long-term planning, roll on Plan and prioritizing procurements for the Armed forces in view of changing security and technological advancement. By representing the Services' needs, HQ IDS provides the foundational input necessary to guide defence production initiatives. The DDP/MoD, oversees the indigenous defence manufacturing, facilitating the private sector's involvement, and implementing policies to bolster domestic production capacities. It coordinates with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), DRDO, Ordnance Factories and private players to ensure that the production ecosystem meets the operational and strategic needs of the armed forces.

The collaboration amongst stakeholders ensures that defence manufacturing priorities are aligned with the current and future needs of the defence forces. The partnership facilitates the development of customized solutions, ensuring timely availability of weapons, platforms, and technologies. The synergy provides a crucial role in streamlining the defence requirement and provides insights to refine R&D efforts and ensure relevance to operational needs of modern warfare.”

Comments of the Committee

11. The Committee whilst taking cognizance of the paradigm shift in the strategy of warfare had recommended that urgent and coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders i.e. the Ministry of Defence, Services, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings etc. be ensured to achieve excellence in hybrid and modern war tactics. The Ministry in this regard submitted that synergy between Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, Services Headquarters, DRDO and the Department of Defence Production (DDP)/MoD is fundamental towards advancing India’s self-reliance in defence, alongwith strengthening its strategic capabilities. Further, as India aims to modernize its Armed Forces and reduce dependency on foreign imports, such collaboration ensures a seamless alignment of operational requirements, indigenous manufacturing and timely policy execution. The Committee note that the synergy among various stakeholders across the Defence ecosystem in the country together with their concerted efforts have accomplished concrete results. Further, the Committee note that country’s recent military operation is a testimony to the Armed Forces’ mounting prowess in both conventional and modern warfare. Therefore, keeping in view the constant reinventions in modern warfare, the Committee reiterate that the stakeholders in the Defence sector of the country work in mission mode, while also leveraging technological innovations, human resource, strategy and tactics to further bolster our operational preparedness in all dimensions of warfare. The Committee also desire that action being taken/contemplated by the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces to address the evolving challenges of modern warfare be intimated to them at the earliest.

DEFENCE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

C. Delivery of products/equipment/platforms by DPSUs

Recommendation (Para No. 18)

12. The Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee note that there have been time overruns on the part of DPSUs in conforming to the delivery schedule of certain products for the Forces. The Committee, taking into account the written submission of the Ministry and oral deposition of the Defence Secretary in this regard, note that the primary reason for the delay in most cases is dependence on imported items. One such instance of delay in delivery of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) M1A was also highlighted by the Committee during deliberations on DFG 2024- 25. In this context, the Committee are of the view that the DPSUs should intensify their efforts to ensure timely supply of various equipment /platforms/weapon systems/ accessories so that our Armed Forces are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and platforms to encounter any unforeseen situation at any point of time.

The Committee are also given to understand that the delays are sometimes caused due to focus on indigenization and preserving strategic autonomy. The Committee are of the considered view that for achieving self reliance for inventing, developing and producing cutting edge Defence technology, R&D activities in Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) should be further strengthened in terms of adequate budgetary, infrastructural and human resource support.”

13. The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

“Many projects executed by DPSUs are technology intensive with dependence on multiple stakeholders including foreign OEMs. Various factors such as Covid, Geo-Political etc, which were beyond control of the DPSUs, contributed in the delay of timely supply of equipment/platforms/ weapon systems/accessories to the Armed Forces. With a view to ensure timely supply of the equipment/platforms/weapon systems/accessories to equip Armed Forces, DPSUs are taking multipronged initiatives. Some of the major initiatives by DPSUs are enumerated below:

(a) New production lines have been established and are also under establishment by DPSUs to increase production capacity.

(b) Augmented Repair and Overhaul (ROH) facilities to ensure quicker turnaround times.

(c) Created Operations Monitoring & Analytics (OMA) group at Corporate Office to monitor and review progress of key production projects and critical deliverables.

(d) Deployed Obsolescence Check software tool across the company to ensure that obsolescence-related issues do not delay manufacture & delivery.

(e) Indigenisation of imported sub-systems / modules / components are undertaken simultaneously under multiple initiatives viz iDEX-DIO, Srijan portal, Make-I/II and also through own initiatives by DPSUs.

(f) Import of long lead critical items in advance.

(g) Indigenization of critical imported parts and aggregates resulting in time saving and import cost.

(h) Development of alternate and multiple sources.

(i) Long-term contracts with major suppliers for critical aggregates.

(j) Development of multi-level skilled man power.

(k) Minimizing slippages in delivery schedule with better capacity utilization and efficient supply chain management.

(l) Integrated Construction with high degree of pre-outfitting towards construction of quality ships in reduced timeframe.

(m) Introduction of Virtual reality lab, Product Data Management (PDM)/ Project Lifecycle Management (PLM), Cutting edge design Softwares, Robotic welding, Introduction of AI in various spheres of operation etc in shipbuilding.

(n) Standardisation of stock control items involved in shipbuilding.

Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production is providing various supports to strengthen R&D activities of DPSUs towards achieving self-reliance, inventing, developing & producing cutting edge Defence technology by them through various enabling measures:

(i) DPSUs are participating in Innovation in Defence excellence (iDEX) initiative which was launched in 2018 to foster innovation & technology development in Defence & Aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, Start-ups, Individual Innovators, R&D institutes and Academia.

- (ii) DPSUs participate in the “Make India Initiative” launched in 2016 aimed to achieve Self – reliance by involving greater participation of industries, both private & public.
- (iii) With the supports of the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production, DPSUs are augmenting their R&D facilities, Production capacity, testing facilities, Ship building capacity, Repair and Overhaul(ROH) facilities.
- (iv) To accelerate the efforts, DPSUs are undertaking modernization of existing infrastructures and plants & machineries. DPSUs have proposed expenditure of total Rs 6587 Cr for the FY 2024-25 for CAPEX. The modernization will help the DPSUs position themselves to cater to the need of existing and new customers in domestic and global markets and will also help them venture into new strategic business areas.
- (v) Augmenting the efforts and aligned with the goal of self-reliance in inventing, developing and producing cutting edge Defence technology, DPSUs are undertaking various R& D activities with focused objectives with plans for R&D spends in the coming years. All DPSUs have already earmarked funds for their R&D activities upto FY 2028-29. The total R&D expenditure planned by the DPSUs is Rs 6280 Cr for FY 2024-25.
- (vi) Establishment of Rate Contract for purchase of steel and shipbuilding services.
- (vii) Distributed manufacturing through development and leveraging of vendor base in shipbuilding.
- (viii) In the area of Human Resource, DPSUs are having tie-ups with reputed Academia and other institutes and deputing the R&D engineers for trainings/seminars/interactions etc. to enhance the knowledge in their respective domains to give impetus to R&D activities.”

Comments of the Committee

14. The Committee in their original Report had noted time overruns on part of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in conforming to the delivery schedule of certain products for the Forces. In this regard, the Committee were of the view that DPSUs should intensify their efforts to ensure timely supply of various equipment /platforms/weapon systems/ accessories so that our Armed Forces are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and platforms to encounter

any unforeseen scenario. In its Action Taken Reply, the Ministry submitted that many projects executed by DPSUs are technology intensive with dependence on multiple stakeholders, including foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). Further, various factors such as Covid, Geo-Political etc, which were beyond control of the DPSUs, lead to the delay in timely supply of equipment/platforms/ weapon systems/accessories to the Armed Forces. The Committee further note from the reply of the Ministry, that with a view to ensure timely supply of the equipment/platforms/weapon systems/accessories to equip Armed Forces, DPSUs are taking multipronged initiatives. Therefore, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry initiate steps to resolve all constraints plaguing timely delivery of the required platforms. Towards this, the Committee desire that in order to gauge the effectiveness of these initiatives put in place by DPSUs, a brief factual note containing the details of major projects for equipment/platforms/ weapon systems/accessories for the Armed Forces which have been facing delay, progress made till date, revised timelines of delivery and financial implications alongwith the challenges being faced in realization of the objectives, be intimated to them at the earliest.

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

D. Re-settlement avenues for ESM

Recommendation (Para No. 23)

15. The Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee learn that the present re-employment avenues for ESM offered by DGR inter alia include security guards in various CPSEs, Corporate Houses, PSUs, Tipper attachment, Oil Retail Outlet dealership, CNG Retail outlets, Mother Dairy/Safal outlets. The Committee, during deliberations on the subject, raised concerns regarding work profile of certain re-employment avenues being offered to ESM, which could affect their morale and mental health. Therefore, the Committee recommend that concrete efforts may now be made to increase the self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially in their local/native places for ESM by the Ministry of Defence. Further, viability of reservation of jobs for ESM in Sainik Schools and Cantonment Boards may be explored by the Ministry of Defence and the Committee be apprised accordingly.”

16. The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

“The observations of the Committee have been noted.”

Comments of the Committee

17. The Committee in their original Report had recommended that concrete efforts be made to increase the self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Ex-Servicemen (ESM), especially in their local/native areas by the Ministry of Defence. They had also recommended that viability of reservation of jobs for ESM in Sainik Schools and Cantonment Boards be explored by the Ministry of Defence. In its Action Taken Reply, the Ministry has submitted that the observations of the Committee have been noted. The Committee therefore expect that their recommendation regarding deserving re-settlement avenues for Ex-Servicemen be taken in the right earnest and to this extent, the Committee desire that meaningful and tangible efforts befitting the status of ESM be taken by the Ministry. A status report in this regard may be furnished at the time of submitting Action Taken Statement for the perusal of the Committee.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2024-25: A bird's eye view:

Recommendation No. 1 & 2

The Committee note that the Defence Budget is categorised/grouped under four Demands for Grants viz. Demand No. 19 – Ministry of Defence (Civil), Demand No. 20– Defence Services (Revenue), Demand No. 21 – Capital Outlay on Defence Services and Demand No. 22 – Defence Pension. Demand Nos. 19 and 22 come under Civil/Pension Estimates and Demand Nos. 20 and 21 constitute Defence Services Estimates. They also note that the requirements for the Civil expenditure of the Ministry of Defence Secretariat, Defence Accounts Department, Canteen Stores Department, Defence Estates Organisation, Coast Guard Organisation, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (J&K LI), Border Roads Organization etc. are provided for in Demand No. 19- MoD(Civil). The Defence Services Estimates (DSE) reflects the detailed estimates for the Defence Services and Organizations/Services covered under Grant Number 20 and 21 of the Ministry of Defence. The Services and Organizations covered under DSE are Army (including National Cadet Corps, Director General Quality Assurance and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme), Navy (including Joint Staff), Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services). Grant Number 20 caters to revenue expenditure which includes expenditure on pay & allowances, transportation, revenue stores (like ordnance stores, ration, petrol, oil and lubricants, spares, maintenance of various platforms/equipment etc), revenue works (which include maintenance of buildings, water and electricity charges, rents, rates and taxes, etc.) and other miscellaneous expenditure. Grant Number 21 caters to Capital expenditure which includes expenditure on land, construction works, plant and machinery, equipment, heavy and medium vehicles, Naval Vessels, Aircraft and Aero engines, Dockyards, etc. The Committee also note that re-structuring of Capital budget has been done with effect from Financial Year 2024-25 wherein budgetary allocation of the three Services under common minor heads has been clubbed under the newly introduced Sub Major Head 09 i.e Defence Services. Allocation under other minor heads which are not common to the Services has been kept as it is. Demand No. 22 provides for Pensionary charges (Service pension, gratuity, family pension, disability pension, commuted value of pension, leave encashment etc.) in respect of the retired Defence personnel (including Defence civilian employees) of the three Services viz. Army, Navy and Air Force and employees of erstwhile Ordnance Factories.

Recommendation No. 2

During examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2024-25, the Committee find that out of the total allocated budget for the Ministry of Defence for Financial Year 2024-25 i.e. ₹ 6,21,940.85 Crore, largest share of 73.12 percent, i.e. ₹ 4,54,772.67 Crore has been allocated for Defence Services Estimates (Grant Number 20 and 21). An amount of ₹ 2,82,772.67 Crore has been allocated to Defence Services Revenue (Grant Number 20). The Capital Outlay on Defence Services (Grant number 21) has been allocated an amount of ₹ 1,72,000 Crore. Defence Pension (Grant Number 22) has secured 22.70 percent of the total Defence budget i.e. ₹ 1,41,205 Crore. The 4.17 percent of the total Defence budget i.e. ₹ 25,963.18 Crore has been allocated to Ministry of Defence (Civil) (Grant Number 19). The Committee observe that the total Defence Budget is 12.90% of total Central Government Expenditure and 1.91% of GDP for the year 2024-25. Further, total outlay for the Defence budget in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 has shown an increase of ₹ 28,403.21 Crore i.e. 4.79 percent in comparison to Budget Estimates in 2023-24. The Committee also notes the Ministry's submission that Defence Budget has increased at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.6% from FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25 which is greater than the inflation rate in each year. However, when compared to the Revised Estimates allocation of ₹ 6,23,888.94 Crore for 2023-24, the BE allocation for 2024-25 shows a decrease of ₹ 1,948.09 Crore. The Committee are aware that the Revised Estimates exercise of the budgetary process which takes into account variety of factors such as inflation, trend of expenditure so far, emergency procurement etc. has already been commenced in various Ministries. The Committee, therefore, hope that if need be the Ministry of Defence will allocate additional funds at Revised Estimates stage to ensure optimum operational preparedness of our Armed Forces at all times.

Reply of the Government

The Committee may be apprised that in RE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 6,41,060.00 Crore has been allocated to Ministry of Defence which is an increase of Rs. 19,119.15 Crore over BE 2024-25 allocation. The procedure followed for allocation involves trend of expenditure, projections made by the Services, Committed Liabilities to be fulfilled, critical requirements etc. The allocated funds will be optimally utilized towards operational preparedness of the Armed Forces. On the basis of additional requirement, funds will be sought at Supplementary stage. Also, if required, through reprioritization, it will be ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Utilization of Defence Budget 2023-24

Recommendation No.3

The Committee, on scrutiny of the budgetary documents furnished by the Ministry of Defence, note that out of the amount of ₹ 6,23,888.94 Crore allocated for total Defence Budget at Revised Estimates 2023-24 stage, the actual expenditure incurred for Financial Year 2023-24 is ₹ 6,09,853.98 Crore. During deliberations, the Committee were apprised that global geo-political situation causing supply chain disruptions and efforts made by the Indian Defence Industry in achieving greater self-reliance in Defence manufacturing led to some delays in projects fructification and incomplete utilization of funds. The Committee hope that measures would be put in place to ensure full utilization of funds in the coming years.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and it is stated that progress of expenditure is reviewed from time to time to ensure that the budgetary allocations are fully utilized. Further, necessary instructions are also issued for compliance with financial propriety norms and avoidance of overspending/underutilization of funds. The Committee may be assured that all efforts are made to ensure optimum utilization of available resources.

Budget allocation to the Services

Recommendation No. 4

On scrutiny of the documents provided by the Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25, the Committee find that in comparison to the Budget Estimates 2023-24, while capital allocation to Navy and Air Force has been increased to 20.07 percent and 1.36 percent, respectively, the allocation to Army under this head has registered a decline of 4.49 percent in Budget Estimates 2024-25. During oral evidence in connection with examination of DFG 2024-25, the Defence Secretary has attributed the reason for this uneven increase in Capital allocation to the three Services to the higher cost of the equipment and platforms required by Navy and Air Force than that of Army. Further, admittedly, the increase in Capital allocation to Navy in BE 2024-25 is highest among the three Services due to order of Predator Drones for Navy. The Committee also note the deposition of the representative of the Ministry that Capital allocation to the Army for BE 2024-25 is adequate. While keeping in mind the assurance of the Ministry regarding adequacy of the Capital Allocation for the Forces, the Committee hope that requirements for additional funds, if any, by the Forces will be taken care of by them at the Revised Estimates stage to upkeep and maintain the existing robust Armed Forces.

Reply of the Government

In RE 2024-25, the allocation made to the Ministry of Defence under Capital Outlay on Defence Services (i.e. Grant No. 21) has been decreased by Rs. 12,500.00 Crore from BE 2024-25 allocation (i.e. Rs. 1,72,000.00 Crore). The procedure followed for allocation involves trend of expenditure, past absorption capacity of the Services, projections made by the Services, inter-Ministry priorities, Committed Liabilities to be fulfilled, critical requirements etc. Further, the Committee may be assured that the allocated funds will be optimally utilized towards operational preparedness of the Armed Forces. On the basis of additional requirement, funds will be sought at Supplementary stage. Also, if required, through reprioritization, it will be ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

2. Moreover, it may be stated that in BE 2025-26, an amount to the tune of Rs. 1,80,000.00 Crore has been allocated to Ministry of Defence under Capital Outlay on Defence Services (i.e. Grant No. 21) which is an increase of Rs. 20,500.00 Crore over RE 2024-25 allocation.

Modern warfare

Recommendation No.5

The committee are cognizant that a paradigm shift in the strategy of warfare is taking place in contemporary theatre of war where non-conventional means such as non-kinetic warfare, cyber warfare, cognitive warfare etc. are being increasingly employed. The Committee learn that efforts are ongoing to increase our capabilities in this modern warfare and have every reason to believe that with right combination of strategy morale and infrastructure, our country will be at par with other advanced countries. In this regard, the Committee recommend that urgent and coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders i.e. the Ministry of Defence, Services, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings etc. may be made to achieve excellence in hybrid and modern war tactics.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Modernisation of Armed Forces ensure that existing capabilities remain relevant efficient and integrated with contemporary technologies. The synergy between Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), Services HQs, DRDO and the Department of Defence Production (DDP)/MoD is fundamental to advancing India's defence self-reliance and strengthening its strategic capabilities. As India aims to modernize its Armed Forces and reduce dependency on

foreign imports, this collaboration ensures a seamless alignment of operational requirements, indigenous manufacturing and policy execution.

HQ IDS serves as the apex organization to foster Jointness amongst three services. It is responsible for consolidating operational requirements, long-term planning, roll on Plan and prioritizing procurements for the Armed forces in view of changing security and technological advancement. By representing the Services' needs, HQ IDS provides the foundational input necessary to guide defence production initiatives. The DDP/MoD, oversees the indigenous defence manufacturing, facilitating the private sector's involvement, and implementing policies to bolster domestic production capacities. It coordinates with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), DRDO, Ordnance Factories and private players to ensure that the production ecosystem meets the operational and strategic needs of the armed forces.

The collaboration amongst stakeholders ensures that defence manufacturing priorities are aligned with the current and future needs of the defence forces. The partnership facilitates the development of customized solutions, ensuring timely availability of weapons, platforms, and technologies. The synergy provides a crucial role in streamlining the defence requirement and provides insights to refine R&D efforts and ensure relevance to operational needs of modern warfare.

Emergency procurement

Recommendation No. 6:

The Committee's oral evidence of the representatives of MoD has revealed that the Emergency Procurements for the Forces were sanctioned four times in 2020. They also learn that a mechanism is being worked out in the Ministry of Defence for fast track procurement for the services. In this regard, the Committee desire that modalities being worked out for fast track procurement for the services be finalized at the earliest and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

The Government attaches the highest priority to ensure that the Armed Forces are sufficiently equipped to meet any operational requirement. Capital Acquisition for the Indian Armed Forces is made as per guidelines under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020 which is a flexible document continuously evolving on the basis of operational experience, changing threat perceptions and technological advancements. Continuous review of DAP ensures that hurdles in speedier acquisitions are identified and removed swiftly which ultimately reduces the acquisition cycle. DAP 2020 has been kept updated via Business Processing Reengineering (BPR) wherein 103 amendments have been carried out to align the same towards more efficient and effective processes.

In this regard, with a view to further strengthen the resolution of the Government for modernization of Armed Forces, a decision has been taken to observe 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms' in the Ministry of Defence, which *inter alia* aimed for simplification in the Defence Procurement Procedure to ensure optimum utilization of the allocated budget.

DAP 2020 is due for revision in the current year. The refinement of defence acquisition procedures including the Fast Track Procedure (FTP) will be carried out to ensure faster and more transparent acquisitions.

Border Roads Organization (BRO)

Recommendation No. 7:

The committee note that for BE 2024-25, under MoD (civil), the total allocation to BRO is ₹ 12,107.41 crore; allocation under Revenue head is ₹ 5,595.41 crore and Capital head is ₹ 6,512 crore. In FY 2023-24, the BE allocation to BRO under MoD (civil) was ₹ 10,179.75 crore. Further, as on 31.10.2024, BRO has spent ₹ 3,121 crore under capital head and ₹ 4,147 crore under Revenue Head. In the past 60 years, BRO has constructed more than 61000 km of roads, 915 permanent bridges, 04 tunnels and 19 airfields under adverse climatic and geographical conditions. The committee would like to place on record their appreciation for the BRO in carrying out mammoth and arduous tasks of creating strong and viable infrastructure in the inhospitable and far-flung areas of the country. In this context, the committee recommend that additional funds at Revised Estimates stage, as sought by BRO may be favorably considered by the Ministry so that construction and maintenance of operational infrastructure for the Forces in Border Areas of the country remains unabated.

Reply of the Government

The total BE 2024-25 allocation to BRO is ₹ 12,107.41 crore (₹ 5,595.41 crore under Revenue head and ₹ 6,512 crore under Capital head). At RE 2024-25 stage, BRO has projected a total amount of Rs. 12307.41 crs. (Rs. 5795.41 crs under Revenue Head and 6512.00 crs. under Capital Head). Against this projection, a total amount of Rs. 12,233.91 crs has been allocated to BRO (Rs. 5721.91 under Revenue Section and Rs. 6512.00 crs under Capital Section). Whereas meagre reduction is made in the Revenue Section, the projected amount under Capital Section has been allocated in the RE 2024-25 without any reduction.

Further, it is also important to mention here that, while allocating funds Ministry of Finance analyses past absorption capacity of the Organization, pace of expenditure in the current Financial Year, overall resource envelope available and pressing demands from other quarters etc. Based on the overall ceiling conveyed by Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence allocates funds among the Departments and Organization of MoD, including

Border Road Organisation, taking into account Inter Organization priorities, pace of expenditure, pending committed liabilities etc.

Moreover, the committee may be assured that the allocated funds will be optimally utilized towards operational activities. If required, the schemes will be reprioritized to ensure that construction and maintenance of operational infrastructure for the Forces in Border Areas of the country remains unabated.

Challenges faced in execution of projects

Recommendation No. 08

The Committee are aware that in the past, certain projects of BRO were delayed due to delay in granting Forest and Wildlife and land acquisition clearance. The Committee understand that challenges faced by BRO in this regard have reduced to a great extent. Nevertheless, the Committee urge that in order to save precious time and energy of BRO in getting the requisite approvals, remaining pending cases of Forest and Wildlife and land acquisition Clearance may be resolved at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

Following steps/actions have been taken by MoD/BRO for early finalization of pending Land Acquisition (LA)/Forest Clearance (FC)/Wildlife Clearance (WLC) cases:-

- Uploading of proposals for FC/WLC on PARIVESH Portal of MoEF&CC and continuous follow-ups and monitoring.
- Declaration of BRO projects falling within 100 km of IB/LAC/LC as 'Strategic projects of National importance' for seeking Forest clearance exemption under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023. This provision has fast tracked requisite FC/WLC clearances for strategic projects.
- Co-ordination meetings with MoEF&CC and State Authorities for expediting statutory clearances.
- Escalating issues relating to Critical Projects on PMG Portal/PRAGATI & NITI Aayog for early resolution.

Sharing of technology by BRO with other agencies

Recommendation No. 09:

The Committee note the submission of the Director General, Border Roads that BRO is open to sharing its expertise and knowledge of construction and maintenance of infrastructure with other concerned agencies in various State Governments. In this context, the Committee recommend that feasibility of creation of an online portal by BRO for facilitation of guidance and co-ordination with other Government construction agencies for this purpose may be explored and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

Sharing of BRO's expertise and knowledge in construction and maintenance of infrastructure with other construction agencies is being done through seminars, conferences, lectures, compendium and magazine etc. In the meantime, BRO portal is being upgraded for facilitation of guidance and up to date information on important and key issues pertaining to BRO.

Indian Coast Guard

Recommendation No. 10

The committee learn that the amount allocated under capital and Revenue heads to Indian Coast Guard Organisation (ICG) in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 is ₹ 3,500 crore and ₹ 4151.80 crore, respectively. Out of this allocation for FY 2024-25, the total expenditure by coast Guard upto 20.11.2024 is ₹ 4,338 crore. The committee note that for Revised Estimates 2024-25, the projection in respect of coast Guard is ₹ 8,964.27 crore, seeking an increase of ₹ 1,312.47 crore over BE 2024-25. Keeping in view the past trend of full utilization of funds by ICG, the committee desire that reasons for increase in RE projection for 2024-25 may be furnished to the committee at the earliest. Nevertheless, the committee also recommend that justified demands for funds for Indian coast Guard may be suitably met at RE stage to aid this organization in carrying out its multifarious roles efficiently.

Reply of the Government

The amount allocated to Indian Coast Guard organisation (ICG) in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 is Rs. 7651.8 crores (₹ 4151.80 crore under Revenue heads and ₹ 3,500 crore under Capital heads). For Revised Estimates, ICG has projected ₹ 8,964.27 crore, (Revenue + Capital) thereby seeking an increase of ₹ 1,312.47 crore

over BE 2024-25. The projection of ICG has been considered in this Ministry and the same was forwarded to Ministry of Finance for consideration. As desired by the Committee, the reasons for increase in RE projection for 2024-25 under Revenue and Capital Section of the Organization, falling under the main relevant heads, are mentioned below, in tabular form :-

(Rs. in Crs.)

Object Heads	Additional amount projected in RE 2024-25 over BE 2024-25	Reasons for additionally over BE 2024-25
Revenue		
Salary	108.53	the additional amount over BE has been projected which includes disbursement of salary of ICG personnel and the same to new officers, Enrolled Personnel(EPs) and Civilian recruitees who will join the service during the second half of the current fiscal and for the personnel of ADG(P).
Allowances	85.70	
Office Expenses	62.65	The increase in RE 2024-25 over BE has been projected for recurring and non –recurring contingent expenses to be incurred for the maintenance of office establishment
Material & Supplies	. 240.00	This additionally is proposed for payment of items to be procured towards ration etc. for ships, which have been increased since last fiscal under naval stores, victualing stores, clothing stores, mess traps, ARD and all those items under 'Warrant of Stores' for all new ships/boats likely to be commissioned during the FY 2024-25. The increase is due to increase in market price index and number of afloat/ air units added to the ICG infrastructure and growing force levels.
Repair and Maintenance	36.00	Additional fund over BE 24-25 is required mainly for Repair of sensore against RRC and Custom Duty
Other Revenue Expenditure	45.00	The additional fund is proposed to meet the miscellaneous expenditure i.e. OSD of Ships including 1TS/EEZ Surveillance
Capital		
Land	50.00	The additional fund is proposed due to upcoming land projects i.e. extension of lease period, Leasing of finger jetty No.1&02 from MPA at Goa
Buildings and Structures	330.00	The additional fund is proposed as the said requirement has been received from CEs/MEs.
Infrastructural Assets	504.75	The increase requirement is proposed is mainly due to 1 st and 2 nd stage payment towards acquisition

		projects likely to be fructified during current fiscal. The major envisaged cash outgo in this detailed heads are : 01 raining Ship, 14 FPVs, 06 NGOPVs, 07 OPVs, 06 ACVs, 02 PCVs, MLU of 17 Dor Account, 16 ALH MK-III and 09 ALH MK-III
Machinery and equipment	146.58	Additional fund requirement is proposed for the cash outgo due to following major schemes/projects: SDR-TAC (Qty-149), MRSCs equipment, OCPP Schemes.

However, the total approved ceiling for RE 2024-25 as intimated by Ministry of Finance was 8279.50 crs i.e. Rs. 4080.00 crs in the Revenue Section and Rs. 4199.50 crs in the capital Section of Indian Coast Guard.

It may be stated here that, while allocating funds, Ministry of Finance analyses past absorption capacity of the Organization, pace of expenditure in the current Financial Year, overall resource envelope available and pressing demands from other quarters etc. Based on the overall ceiling conveyed by Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence allocates funds among the Departments and Organization of MoD, including Indian Coast Guard taking into account inter Organization priorities, pace of expenditure, pending committed liabilities etc.

As regards organizations ongoing pace of expenditure and past absorption trend, it is mentioned that the actual expenditure of CGO upto Jan 2025 is Rs. 3194.03 crs under Revenue Section against the allocated RE 2024-25 of Rs. 4080.00 which is 78.28 % . Similarly actual expenditure of CGO upto Jan 2025 is Rs. 2988.12 crs under Capital expenditure against the allocated RE 2024-25 of Rs. 4199.50 crs which is only 71.54% of the allocated RE 2024-25. It may be relevant to mention here that in the FY 2023-24, under Revenue Section, the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 4062.65 crs only, against the final allocation of Rs. 4109.23 crs. and under Capital Section, the actual expenditure was Rs. 4125.24 crs. only against the final allocation of Rs. 4149.35 crs .

Therefore, the Committee may be assured that the allocated funds will be optimally utilized towards operational activities. If required, the schemes will be reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are required without any compromise to operational preparedness.

Stray Incident of leaking of sensitive information

Recommendation No.11

The Committee take cognizance of a recent reported event of arrest of a Probandar resident for allegedly sharing sensitive information about Indian Coast Guard vessels. In this regard, the Committee note the submission of the Director General Coast

Guard that this was a one-off incident. It was also submitted that a thorough background and antecedent verification of the contractual staff is undertaken by the Coast Guard. In this regard, the committee recommend that the extant system of detecting and monitoring channels of leakage of sensitive information may be further strengthened to avoid recurrence of such cases in future. The contractual staff in the Coast Guard may also be suitably sensitized in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Action taken report on the observations/recommendations of SCoD is enumerated below. By implementing these detailed measures, ICG has significantly enhanced its security framework and ensured the safety of its personnel, assets, and sensitive information.

(a) Enhanced Security and Surveillance Measures: ICG has implemented robust security and surveillance measures at all ICG establishments, jetties, and associated assets. These measures include thorough entry and exit checks for all individuals and vehicles to prevent unauthorised access, utilization of modern surveillance tools such as CCTV cameras, biometric systems, and security alarms to monitor activities effectively.

(b) Reporting of Potential Security Breaches: It is being ensured that incidents suggesting a potential breach of security or information are promptly reported to security personnel and duty staff by first responder.

(c) Comprehensive Checks on Civilians: The verification process for all civilians engaged in ICG-related jobs is being instituted at unit levels. This includes background checks, employment history reviews, and identity verification to minimize risks associated with unauthorized or suspicious individuals gaining access to sensitive areas.

(d) Sensitizing Local Firms: The registered firms/vendors working with ICG are being encouraged to educate their works on the dangers associating with Anti-National Elements (ANEs) and engaging in subversive activities.

(e) Police Verification of Employees: It has been made mandatory for all civil firms engaged with ICG to obtain Police Verification Certificates for their employees involved in ICG-related tasks. These certificates are being checked on regular basis and proper records are being maintained to ensure compliance accountability.

(f) Prohibition of Smartphone: The prohibition on use of smartphone by workers and traders within ICG premises including surrounding jurisdiction areas is already in place. This prevents unauthorized photography, recording or sharing of sensitive information. The civilian traders/workers have to deposit their mobile phones at designated gangways or points prior entering ICG premises.

- (g) Monitoring Civilian Activities: The Duty staff maintain surveillance on civil workers while they are working on board ICG ships or within ICG establishments.
- (h) Deployment of Intelligence Staff: Intelligence staff is being deployed randomly to oversee activities involving civilian workers. Monitoring and analysis of behaviors, interaction and activities are being carried out to detect any signs of security risks or breaches.
- (i) Continued Awareness and Precautionary Efforts: The efforts to educate ICG personnel about potential threats such as PIO activities are being undertaken on regular basis. Lectures, SMP protocols, cyber security advisories and regular meeting (e.g. Cyber Jagrookta, webinars etc) to enhance awareness are being undertaken. Information are also being disseminated through Daily Orders, directives, and unit-level events like Captain's Durbars to reinforce precautionary measures and encourage a proactive approach to security.
- (j) Regular Audits of Security Infrastructure: Periodic audits of all security measures and infrastructure is being undertaken to identify and address potential vulnerabilities. These audits include inspections of physical barriers, surveillance system, and communication equipment to ensure they are fully functional and up to date.
- (k) Collaboration with Law Enforcement Agencies: The collaboration with local law enforcement and intelligence agencies is being strengthened to share information on potential threats, suspicious activities, and individuals. ICG is trying to establish a joint response mechanism to ensure swift and effective handling of any security breaches.

Budgetary provision

Recommendation No.12

The Committee learn that for Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), under Budget Estimates 2024-25, ₹ 621.61 crore and ₹ 42.60 crore have been allocated under Revenue and capital Head, respectively. They also learn that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) provides financial assistance to cantonment Boards in the form of ordinary Grant-In-Aid to balance their budget and during 2023-24, 50 cantonment Boards out of 61 received Grant-in-Aid from the MoD. The committee find that for BE 2024-25, the total Grant-in-Aid to the cantonments amounts to ₹ 439.69 crore. In this regard, the committee recommend that if required, Grant-in-Aid to the Cantonments be appropriately examined by the Ministry at Revised Estimates stage so that various civic and welfare schemes/initiatives being undertaken in the Cantonment areas continue unhampered.

Reply of the Government

The provisions for Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), under Budget Estimates 2024-25, ₹ 621.61 crore and ₹ 42.60 crore have been allocated under Revenue and capital Head, respectively. Out of this total provisions of BE 2024-25 an amount of Rs. 439.69 has been provided under Grant-in-Aid.

On the basis of Pace of expenditure upto September 2024, the total Budget allocated for RE 2024-25 (Revenue Section) is Rs. 725.59 crs. and an amount of Rs. 557.28 crs has been allocated under Grant-in-Aid, thus an additional amount of Rs. 117.59 crs. has been provided under Grant-in-Aid in RE 2024-25 over BE 2024-25 which was Rs. 439.69 crs.

Further, while allocating funds , Ministry of Finance analyses past absorption capacity of the Organization, pace of expenditure in the current Financial Year, overall resource envelope available and pressing demands from other quarters etc. Based on the overall ceiling conveyed by Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence allocates funds among the Departments and Organization of MoD, including DEO taking into account inter Organization priorities, pace of expenditure, pending committed liabilities etc.

Further, it is also important to mention here that any additional funds under Grants-in-aid is provided by Ministry of Finance with the prior approval of Parliament. The committee may be assured that all efforts will be made to obtain additional funds projected by Defence Estate Organization for “Grants-in-Aid” in future under Revenue Section so that any civic facilities and welfare schemes/initiatives in the Cantonment areas are not affected due to lack of adequate funds.

Excision of Civil areas of Select Cantonments and their merger with adjoining municipalities.

Recommendation No. 13:

The Committee learn that in order to move away from the Cantonment concept and bring uniformity in municipal laws governing civil areas of Cantonments and adjoining State Municipal areas, it has been decided to consider excision of civil areas of select Cantonments and merge them with adjoining municipalities. Further keeping in view that the outcome of this exercise may have a bearing on the relevance of Cantonment Boards as prescribed under Cantonments Act 2006, the draft Cabinet Note on Cantonments Bill 2022 has been withdrawn. The Committee also note the Defence Secretary's submission in this regard that the matter is being discussed with various State Governments. Since this process of excision of civil areas of Select Cantonments and their merger with

adjoining municipalities is a comparatively new development, the Committee, at this stage, desire that details regarding this process may be furnished to this Committee at the time of submitting Action Taken Replies on this report.

Reply of the Government

In light of in-principle decision taken to excise civil areas of Select Cantonments, broad modalities/ guiding principles for excision of Cantonments have been shared with the concerned State Governments for their views/comments.

MoD has already constituted Cantonment-wise committees consisting of all stakeholders in respect of 36 Cantonments to look into the details of proposed modalities in terms of transfer/retention of assets and liabilities, Cantonment Board employees, pensioners and other issues for excision of civil areas of Cantonments and their merger with adjoining State Municipalities. After detailed deliberations, comprehensive proposals in respect of 34 Cantonments have been sent to respective State Governments.

Gazette notifications have been issued for inviting public objections/suggestions concerning de-notification or excision of civil areas as the case may be, in respect of 10 Cantonment Boards namely Ajmer, Babina, Deolali, Nasirabad, Clement Town, Dehardun, Fatehgarh, Mathura, Ramgarh & Shahjahanpur. The views / comments from the State Governments are still awaited.

Interests of the Civil Population in Cantonment Areas

Recommendation No. 14:

During deliberations on Demands for Grants 2024-25, the Committee raised the issue of grievances of the civil population in the Cantonment areas such as thoroughfare through some roads in the Cantonments areas, cleaning of drainage etc. In this regard, the Defence Secretary apprised the Committee that the services and facilities provided by the Cantonment Boards in their areas are generally better than in general local bodies and that requires strict enforcement of development controls. The Committee understand that with the passage of time and the growing urbanization around Cantonment areas, efforts to maintain the pristine status of the Cantonment areas cause certain restrictions for the civilian population in the Cantonment areas. The Committee are aware that in view of the interest of the residents in the Cantonment areas and need for greater democratization in the functioning of the Cantonment Boards in the country, a new draft Cantonment Bill was conceptualized and was also introduced in the public domain. However, now, consequent to the decision of consideration of excision of civil areas of select Cantonments and their merger with adjoining municipalities, the draft Cabinet Note

on Cantonments Bill 2022 has been withdrawn. At this stage, the Committee recommend that the process of excision of civil areas of select Cantonments and their merger with adjoining municipalities be expedited to address the grievance of the civil population in the Cantonment areas. The Committee in this regard also desire that balanced decisions regarding restriction and controls in the Cantonment areas be taken so as to maintain mutual faith and camaraderie between civil society and defence dispensation.

Reply of the Government

With regard to excision of civil areas from the limits of Cantonments, broad modalities for excision have been shared with the State Governments. In addition, detailed proposals in respect of 34 Cantonments have also been shared with the State Governments for their comments/concurrence. The same is awaited.

As regards closure of roads, MoD had issued instructions on 04.09.2018 outlining the procedure to be adopted for closure of roads in Cantonments under Section 258 of Cantonments Act, 2006. Further, a Committee has been constituted by MoD to look into the issue of closure of roads. The Committee has been tasked to assess the need for their closure based on threat perception and to make suitable recommendations to the Competent Authority.

Civic and welfare facilities in the Cantonment Areas.

Recommendation No. 15:

The committee learn that main duties and discretionary functions of the Cantonment Boards include Sanitation, Water Supply, Education, Health facilities, Birth and Death registration, regulation of building construction etc. The Cantonment Boards in the major cities in the country also have facilities such as Biowaste management plants, ITI centres, e-waste banks etc. The Committee recommend that meaningful and concerted efforts to be made by the Ministry so that new welfare and civic amenities available in the Cantonment areas in the major cities of the country be uniformly extended to all the Cantonment areas in the country.

Reply of the Government

Cantonment Boards are engaged in providing civic services including primary and secondary education, basic health services including specialist services through Dispensaries and Hospitals. In some cases, Boards have taken steps to upgrade their health services by providing facilities like labour room, minor surgery OTs, diagnostic and radiology services, ambulances, specialized services, etc.

At present, there are 181 schools (ranging from Primary to Higher Secondary levels) in which approximately 59961 children are studying and 39 hospitals & 36 dispensaries in various Cantonments (Annexure 'A'). Further, 63 Skill Development Centres and 30 Centres for differently abled children are also running in Cantonments.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission launched by Govt. of India, all 61 Cantonments have been certified by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as ODF (Open Defecation Free) or ODF+ areas and the ODF /ODF+ status is also being sustained in all Cantonments. All Cantonment Boards participated in National level Swachh Survekshan 2023 conducted by MoHUA. Swachhta Award 2023 was given to Mhow Cantonment Board.

For preservation of underground water, 55 Cantonment Boards have framed regulations for Digging and use of Bore wells which was notified in the month of August 2024. Streamlining and regulation of groundwater extraction in Cantonment areas will be benefiting residents of these Cantonments.

Energy conservation measures like fixation of LED street lights has been done. Further, 43 Cantonment Boards have installed Solar Panels with a total capacity of 4404 KW at an estimated cost of Rs. 29.6 Cr.

In 2024, All 61 Cantonment Boards have framed byelaws for Solid Waste Management. 35 Cantonment Boards have installed Solid Waste Processing Plants (SWPPs) for scientific disposal of solid waste (Annexure 'B').

Cantonment Boards have taken multiple steps to achieve the goal of "Digital India" and improve the quality of service delivery. A online portal "e-Chhawani" has been introduced to provide grievance redressal and online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 61 Cantonment Boards across the country. The online services include: -

(a) Major Services:

- (i) Information portal – CB Website
- (ii) Trade License
- (iii) Public Grievances Redressal
- (iv) Miscellaneous Collection
- (v) Lease renewal/ Extension
- (vi) Birth and Death Certificate download
- (vii) Online OPD registration
- (viii) GIS based Water Connection (SWAJAL) and Sewerage Connection

- (ix) Online Property Tax payment facility
- (x) Booking of community hall and water tanker
- (xi) Mobile Toilet locator facility
- (xii) Online Building Plan Approval
- (xiii) Mutation of names in Property Tax records
- (xiv) Rent collection module
- (xv) Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS)

(b) Fully Automated services:

- (i) GIS based Water Connection (SWAJAL) & Sewerage connection.
- (ii) Community Hall Booking
- (iii) Auto-renewal of Trade License

Profitability of the DPSUs

Recommendation No. 16

On scrutiny of the data regarding profitability of the old 9 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), the Committee find that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has registered the highest profitability (Profit after Tax) in 2023-24. The Committee appreciate that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is the only DPSU which has been conferred the status of Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) on October 12, 2024. On further examination of the data regarding profitability of 9 DPSUs for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24, the Committee find that profitability of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) for Financial Year 2023-24 is the lowest among the old DPSUs. The Committee note the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), MIDHANI's submission in this regard that MIDHANI deals with manufacturing of super alloys for which they are dependent on imported raw materials. Admittedly, the profitability of MIDHANI for the said Financial Year has suffered because of the fluctuations in price of these raw materials. However, they have assured that the loss in profitability will be recovered during the current year by MIDHANI. In this regard, the Committee hope that urgent and concerted efforts are being made by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) and MIDHANI to ensure that profitability of MIDHANI does not trail in comparison. The Committee wish that the MoD may inform the profitability of MIDHANI in 2024-25 at the stage of furnishing Action Taken Replies on this Report.

Reply of the Government

Some steps taken to improve profitability of MIDHANI are as under:-

1. More consumption of Plant Reverts. Various steps taken to consume plant reverts are: -

- (a) Plant reverts, which are scrap materials from production are cleaned to remove contaminants before they can be remelted.
- (b) Regular collection of plant reverts from various production units inside MIDHANI at designated place.
- (c) Plant reverts are classified and stored according to their alloy composition.
- (d) In house R&D department has made a SOP for effective utilisation and recovery of expensive elements like Nickel, cobalt, Molybdenum, Chromium etc. by recycling process.
- (e) Modification in melting process modified to extract materials efficiently.
- (f) Due to more consumption of scrap or plant reverts reduction of costly raw materials is expected.
- (g) During the year 2023-24, due to improved raw materials and revert ratio company has saved 19 Crs.

2. Improvement in Process

- (a) New VIM facility which has helped production of quality products and increased better yield.
- (b) Installation of state of art wire drawing machines for better quality and efficiency.

3. Reduction in the Raw Materials Consumption

- (a) Developed plans to manufacture superalloys and steels that require fewer raw materials less expensive materials.
- (b) Chemical composition is optimized for these materials in order to reduce the need for consumption of high-cost or rare raw materials like nickel or cobalt.
- (c) High-quality scrap reused, saving both material and cost.
- (d) Established closed-loop system wherein discarded or obsolete parts are reused. Particularly useful for superalloys and titanium.

(e) Resulted in lesser raw materials during the FY 24-25, Rs. 311 crs compared to Rs. 448 crs in FY 23-24.

4. Focus on Indigenization of Specific Raw Materials

(a) Various vendors identified to develop raw materials which were being imported, such as Aluminium and Vanadium master alloy (used in making titanium alloys).

(b) Certification for change in raw materials source taken up with airworthiness agencies for continuous supplies within India and reducing dependency on imports.

5. Priority Manufacture of High Margin Products. Priority to supply core and high margin products like Titanium Alloy, Maraging Steel & Super Alloy. Titanium sale has gone up from 9 % to 13% and special steel sale increased from 27% to 37%.

6. Outsourcing of Identified Activities for Cost Competitiveness

(a) Outsource non-core manufacturing activities to thereby reducing operational cost.

(b) MIDHANI explored external facilities (including DPSUs) with specialized machinery and advanced technology that resulted in better yield.

7. Profitability data of MIDHANI till Quarter Ending Dec is as given below:

Particulars	2024-25 (till Dec 2024)	2023-24 (till Dec 2023)
Profit Before Tax (PBT)	Rs. 78.88 Cr	Rs. 66.29 Cr
Profit After Tax (PAT)	Rs. 53.92 Cr	Rs. 44.88 Cr

Indigenization Efforts and Self reliance in Defence sector

Recommendation No. 17:

The Committee learn that various steps are being taken for indigenization of Defence production by the DPSUs. These inter alia include promulgation of 5 positive indigenisation lists comprising of 5012 items, launching of SRI JAN portal in August 2020

to facilitate Private Industry to become part of the indigenisation drive of DPSUs & Service Headquarters, introduction of Make I and II Procedures, promotion of Startups through iDEX and ADITI scheme. The Committee note that the country's journey on the path of self-reliance sector in Defence Sector is showing considerable progress. This is substantiated from the fact that the Defence production in the country increased from 1,08,684 crore in 2022-23 to 1,27,265 crore in 2023-24 and 4555 items were indigenized in 2023-24 versus 3414 items in 2022-23. Also, out of 37000+ items displayed on SRIJAN portal by DPSUs, approximately 13,000 items have already been indigenized. In the considered opinion of the Committee, the DPSUs are the pillars of our defence production and therefore, the Committee desire that concerted and timely measures be taken by the Ministry and the DPSUs to further develop their core competencies to ensure that our country achieves complete self-reliance in defence production at the earliest. It goes without saying that this gargantuan task requires adequate support to both DPSUs and Defence Private Sector in terms of budgetary support, investment in Research & Development, transfer of technology etc. and the Committee hope that the Government will take appropriate steps to cater to the needs of the time.

Reply of the Government

1. The Government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment, thereby promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing & technology in the country. These initiatives, inter-alia include the following:-

- (a) Priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020.
- (b) Five 'Positive Indigenization Lists' comprising of total 5012 items have been notified by Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD with timeline beyond which they will only be procured from domestic industry. Till 31 Jan 2025, 3040 items have been indigenised.
- (c) Launch of SRIJAN indigenization portal to facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs.
- (d) Launch of Make Projects for development of defence platforms/systems through Indian Industries.
- (e) Launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme.
- (f) Establishment of two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

- (g) Simplification of Industrial licensing process with longer validity period.
- (h) Liberalization of Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) policy allowing 74% FDI under automatic route.
- (j) Implementation of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017.
- (k) Opening up of Defence Research & Development (R&D) for industry, startups and academia.
- (l) Progressive increase in allocation of Defence Budget of military modernization for procurement from domestic sources, etc.

2. Patents obtained by DRDO are available on DRDO website for use by industries, which are available free of cost to the industry. Ownership of IPR generated in iDEX and Make cases is also provided to the Industry. Ministry monitors the IPRs filed and granted in case of Indian designs developed by DPSUs and Industry under “Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti”. A dedicated IP Cell has been created in the MoD.

Delivery of products/equipment/platforms by DPSUs

Recommendation No. 18:

The Committee note that there have been time overruns on the part of DPSUs in conforming to the delivery schedule of certain products for the Forces. The Committee, taking into account the written submission of the Ministry and oral deposition of the Defence Secretary in this regard, note that the primary reason for the delay in most cases is dependence on imported items. One such instance of delay in delivery of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) M1A was also highlighted by the Committee during deliberations on DFG 2024-25. In this context, the Committee are of the view that the DPSUs should intensify their effort to ensure timely supply of various equipment/platforms/ weapon systems/accessories so that our Armed Forces are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and platforms to encounter any unforeseen situation at any point of time.

The Committee are also given to understand that the delays are sometimes caused due to focus on indigenization and preserving strategic autonomy. The Committee are of the considered view that for achieving self-reliance for inventing, developing and producing cutting edge Defence technology, R&D activities in Defence Public Sector Undertakings

(DPSUs) should be further strengthened in terms of adequate budgetary, infrastructural and human resource support.

40. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

Many projects executed by DPSUs are technology intensive with dependence on multiple stakeholders including foreign OEMs. Various factors such as Covid, Geo-Political etc, which were beyond control of the DPSUs, contributed in the delay of timely supply of equipment/platforms/ weapon systems/accessories to the Armed Forces. With a view to ensure timely supply of the equipment/platforms/weapon systems/accessories to equip Armed Forces, DPSUs are taking multipronged initiatives. Some of the major initiatives by DPSUs are enumerated below:

(a) New production lines have been established and are also under establishment by DPSUs to increase production capacity.

(b) Augmented Repair and Overhaul (ROH) facilities to ensure quicker turnaround times.

(c) Created Operations Monitoring & Analytics (OMA) group at Corporate Office to monitor and review progress of key production projects and critical deliverables.

(d) Deployed Obsolescence Check software tool across the company to ensure that obsolescence-related issues do not delay manufacture & delivery.

(e) Indigenisation of imported sub-systems / modules / components are undertaken simultaneously under multiple initiatives viz iDEX-DIO, Srijan portal, Make-I/II and also through own initiatives by DPSUs.

(f) Import of long lead critical items in advance.

(g) Indigenization of critical imported parts and aggregates resulting in time saving and import cost.

(h) Development of alternate and multiple sources.

(i) Long-term contracts with major suppliers for critical aggregates.

(j) Development of multi-level skilled man power.

(k) Minimizing slippages in delivery schedule with better capacity utilization and efficient supply chain management.

(l) Integrated Construction with high degree of pre-outfitting towards construction of quality ships in reduced timeframe.

(m) Introduction of Virtual reality lab, Product Data Management (PDM)/ Project Lifecycle Management (PLM), Cutting edge design Softwares, Robotic welding, Introduction of AI in various spheres of operation etc in shipbuilding.

(n) Standardisation of stock control items involved in shipbuilding.

Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production is providing various supports to strengthen R&D activities of DPSUs towards achieving self-reliance, inventing, developing & producing cutting edge Defence technology by them through various enabling measures:

(i) DPSUs are participating in Innovation in Defence excellence (iDEX) initiative which was launched in 2018 to foster innovation & technology development in Defence & Aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, Start-ups, Individual Innovators, R&D institutes and Academia.

(ii) DPSUs participate in the “Make India Initiative” launched in 2016 aimed to achieve Self – reliance by involving greater participation of industries, both private& public.

(iii) With the supports of the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production, DPSUs are augmenting their R&D facilities, Production capacity, testing facilities, Ship building capacity, Repair and Overhaul(ROH) facilities.

(iv) To accelerate the efforts, DPSUs are undertaking modernization of existing infrastructures and plants & machineries. DPSUs have proposed expenditure of total Rs 6587 Cr for the FY 2024-25 for CAPEX. The modernization will help the DPSUs position themselves to cater to the need of existing and new customers in domestic and global markets and will also help them venture into new strategic business areas.

(v) Augmenting the efforts and aligned with the goal of self-reliance in inventing, developing and producing cutting edge Defence technology, DPSUs are undertaking various R& D activities with focused objectives with plans for R&D spends in the coming years. All DPSUs have already earmarked funds for their R&D activities upto FY 2028-29. The total R&D expenditure planned by the DPSUs is Rs 6280 Cr for FY 2024-25.

(vi) Establishment of Rate Contract for purchase of steel and shipbuilding services.

(vii) Distributed manufacturing through development and leveraging of vendor base in shipbuilding.

(viii) In the area of Human Resource, DPSUs are having tie-ups with reputed Academia and other institutes and deputing the R&D engineers for trainings/seminars/interactions etc. to enhance the knowledge in their respective domains to give impetus to R&D activities.

Defence Start ups

Recommendation No. 19

The Committee learnt that 534 Start ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been engaged by the Ministry of Defence so far and contracts have been signed with 378 Startups and MSMEs. The Committee, keeping in view the sensitive nature of work of Defence sector, desire that the details of the extant mechanism in the Ministry of Defence for grant of security clearance to the Defence startups engaged by the Ministry be furnished to the Committee at the earliest

Reply of the Government

Adequate provisions have been made in the policies/procedures of Ministry of Defence to ensure that only eligible Indian Companies, including Startups and MSMEs are engaged to harness their potential/expertise for strengthening the defence ecosystem in the country.

Moreover, Industrial Licencing Policy is in place in the Ministry to deal with security related issues for manufacture of critical defence items.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Recommendation No. 20

The Committee note that the CSR activities of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) chiefly cater to the needs of the poor and marginalized sections of the society. In some cases, the CSR funds are used to address grievances of a distressed Ex-Servicemen. In this context, the Committee recommend that feasibility of fixing a percentage of the CSR funds of the DPSUs to be spent on the welfare of the Ex-

Servicemen be explored by the Ministry of Defence and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

Activities to be undertaken under CSR funds are stipulated in the Schedule VII of the Company Act, 2013 and in accordance with Section 135 (Corporate Social Responsibility). Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board of DPSUs constituted under Section 135 of the Company Act, 2013 can recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities given in the Schedule VII of the Company Act, 2013.

The activities given in the Schedule VII, which can be undertaken under CSR, contain the following at its serial no. (vi):

“measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Central Para Military Forces (CPMF) veterans, and their dependents including widows”.

DPSUs undertake activities under CSR funds in accordance with above provisions and as per the common theme issued by Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises for CSR activities by the CPSEs.

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

Budget

Recommendation No.21

The Committee learn that an amount of Rs. 33.80 crore and Rs. 6.968 crore has been allocated to Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), respectively, for Budget Estimates 2024-25. Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) Secretariat and Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) have been allocated sum of RS. 304.30 Crore and Rs. 11.00 crore respectively. The Committee, on scrutinizing the data for budgetary allocation for Organizations/Divisions looking after welfare of Ex-Servicemen, find that the funds provided to DGR, DESW and KSB except Defence Pension and ECHS, have remained equal to that of 23-24. Although the Committee have been assured no challenges are being encountered by Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare regarding budgetary allocation, the Committee would still hope that in case of any need in future, the requisite fund would be provided by the Ministry at Supplementary stage Grant.

Reply of the Government

The funds provided to Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare (DESW) caters the Establishment (Salaries & Office Expenses etc.) related expenditure of the Department. Further, as regards the Budget provision from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26 in respect of DESW, it is stated that funds during the said period have been provided keeping in view of the demand/projection made by DESW. As against the Budget Estimates (BE) for the Financial year 2023-24 (Rs. 10.05 crore), the funds to the tune of Rs. 10.64 crore & 12.56 crore have been allotted in the BE 2024-25 & BE 2025-26 respectively which amounts to approximate 24.97% increase in BE 2025-26 over BE 2023-24.

Similarly, with regards to Budget provision in respect of Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) & Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR), it is stated that KSB had been allocated an amount of Rs. 304.30 Crore in BE 2023-24 which had been maintained at BE 2024-25 stage. It may also be added that Budget allocated to KSB at BE 2024-25 has been increased to Rs. 505.30 Crore at RE 2024-25 stage and to Rs. 404.30 Crore at BE 2025-26 stage (i.e. an increase of 32.86 % over BE 2023-24 allocation).

Further, it may be stated that DGR had been allocated an amount to the tune of Rs. 33.80 Crore in BE 2023-24 which had been maintained at BE 2024-25 stage. Here, it may also be mentioned that in BE 2025-26, budget of DGR has been increased to Rs. 54.80 Crore (an increase of 62.13 % over BE 2023-24 allocation).

The committee may be assured that all efforts will be made to obtain additional funds from Ministry of Finance in case it is demanded and projected by Departments at Supplementary Stage Grant.

Re-Settlement of ESM

Recommendation No. 22

The Committee have been given to understand that Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) sponsors Ex-Servicemen (Officers/ JCOs/ OR) to various Government organizations, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporate Houses, Private Sector, Central Para Military Forces etc. based on their requisition for re-employment of ESM. The Committee, in this regard, recommend that the process for providing re-employment to ESM by DGR, especially the allotment of petrol pumps, CNG Retail outlets, may be expedited and a strict timeframe may be devised by the Ministry in this regard.

The Committee appreciate that 61,810 and 43,734 ESM were given employment through DGR in 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Committee desire that data for the last 3 years regarding the number of ESM, who have applied for but are still awaiting suitable

re-employment opportunities, may be furnished at the time of furnishing the Action Taken Report.

Reply of the Government

The scheme-wise data for the last 3 years (i.e. year 2022, 2023 & 2024) regarding the number of Ex-Servicemen, who have applied for but are still awaiting suitable re-employment opportunities is attached as Appendix 'A'.

Re-settlement avenues for ESM

Recommendation No. 23

The Committee learn that the present re-employment avenues for ESM offered by DGR inter alia include security guards in various CPSEs, Corporate Houses, PSUs, Tipper attachment, Oil Retail Outlet dealership, CNG Retail outlets, Mother Dairy/Safal outlets. The Committee, during deliberations on the subject, raised concerns regarding work profile of certain re-employment avenues being offered to ESM, which could affect their morale and mental health. Therefore, the Committee recommend that concrete efforts may now be made to increase the self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially in their local/native places for ESM by the Ministry of Defence. Further, viability of reservation of jobs for ESM in Sainik Schools and Cantonment Boards may be explored by the Ministry of Defence and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted.

Facilities for ESM

Recommendation No. 24

The Committee desire that details regarding the extant facilities for ESM namely Canteen Stores Department, ECHS polyclinics and Sainik Rest Houses, State-wise and district-wise alongwith the population of ESM in respective areas, in the country may be furnished to them at the time of submitting Action Taken Replies. The Committee recommend that adequate number of CSD and ECHS Polyclinics may be opened uniformly in the country on the basis of the ESM population being catered to in the respective areas. They also desire that proper maintenance of Sainik Rest Houses be taken care of by the Ministry to ensure decent temporary accommodation for the Ex-Servicemen.

Reply of the Government

State & District wise Population of ESM. State & District-wise details of population of ESM in the country as on 31 Dec 2023 is attached at Appendix 'B'.

D(CSD). In so far Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is concerned, it is stated that as per CSD policy, for opening of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Unit Run Canteen (URC), strength of ESM & Widows/Next of Kin (NoK) should be more than 5000 and no other canteen should be available within 50 Kms. Further, for opening of Extension Counter, strength of ESM & Widows/NoK should be more than 2500 and no other canteen should be available within 50 Kms. CSD policy aims to ensure that adequate canteen are available in terms of ESM population in the country. State-wise details of URCs & Extension Counters may be seen at Appendix 'C'.

ECHS. State-wise details of existing 427 ECHS Polyclinics is attached at Appendix 'D'

Sainik Rest House. There are 349 Sainik Rest Houses (SRH) across the country. Details of SRHs is attached at Appendix 'E'. It is submitted that all SRHs are constructed by the concerned State Govt and MoD through DSE Budget, only provides 50% share of cost of construction of a new SRH as a grant to the State Govts. These SRHs are thereafter administrated, operated and maintained by concerned State Govt through the ZSBs and MoD has no role in their maintenance/ upkeep separately, the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund is utilized to provide an annual grant of Rs. 50,000/- per SRH in the 12 Special category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura). An advisory with regard to ensure proper maintenance of these Sainik Rest Houses has been issued to respective Rajya Sainik Boards vide letter No. 1826/Accts/SRH/KSB dated 16.01.2025.

Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)

Recommendation No. 25

The Committee learn that the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS), funded out of the National Defence Fund and administered by the Prime Minister's Office, was launched in 2006 to benefit wards/widows of ESM undertaking professional graduation courses. The scheme awards scholarships to 5500 students every year, with the amount of the scholarship for boys and girls being ₹ 30,000 and ₹ 36,000 per year, respectively. Under PMSS, an amount of ₹ 55 crore was disbursed in 2023-2024 to 15,115 beneficiaries. The Committee, in this regard, desire that feasibility of increasing the amount being disbursed under PMSS, in pursuance with the competent authority, may be explored and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

The PMSS is run centrally by the Prime Minister Office (PMO). The recommendation/suggestion of the committee is being communicated to the PMO.

Appendix 'A'

Scheme-wise Data of ESM

Scheme		ESM Registered during last three year	ESM awaiting as on 01.01.25	Remarks
(a)	ESM in Security Services	-	-	DGR sponsors ESM (Officers) Proprietors of Security Agencies (Empanelled with DGR) who then employ ESM Security Guards with various CPSEs as per contract. The ESM Security Guards are employed by Security Agencies at State/District/Regional level in coordination with respective Rajya Sainik Boards(RSBs)/ Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs). Data at ESM Security Guards level is not maintained by this office.
(b)	ESM(O) Security Agencies & State ESM Corporations Empanelled	3078 ESM (Officers) centrally registered with DGR for various schemes i.e. Security Agency, Coal Company & CNG Schemes.	1132	-

(c)	Management of CNG Station in NCR/Pune		148	
(d)	Coal Companies Sponsored/ ESM(O) Sponsored	Nil	Nil	Coal India Ltd (CIL) has unilaterally withdrawn from the scheme. The matter is sub-judice. No sponsorships have been done since Jul 2020.
(e)	ESM sponsored in Coal Companies	Nil	Nil	
(f)	Widows/ disabled ESM attached in Coal Companies	34	34	-
(g)	Sponsored for COCO Scheme (Petrol Pumps)	-	-	DGR only Sponsors Name of ESMs received from RSBs/ ZSBs against the vacancies received from OMC for COCO outlets.
(h)	Issue of Eligibility Certificates for allotment of Oil Product Agencies	-	-	DGR issue 'Eligibility Certificates' for OPA to all applicants who apply and fulfils the QR.
(j)	Mother Dairy Milk Booths/S	1504	214	-

	afal Booth			
(k)	ESM Sponsore d/ Placeme nt by DGR (Emp Dte)	-	-	DGR only Sponsores Name of Ex-Servicemen against the vacancies.
(l)	DGR Technical Service Scheme	-	-	DGR provides Ex-Servicemen manpower for 'Technical Services' to the Government Est/ Complexes through empanelled State ESM Corporations.

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023		
S. No.	States/UTs	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	77,912
2	Arunachal Pradesh	986
3	Assam	41,962
4	Bihar	133,526
5	Chhattisgarh	7,491
6	Goa	2,345
7	Gujarat	33,475
8	Haryana	175,637
9	Himachal Pradesh	128,576
10	Jharkhand	30,093
11	Karnataka	94,003
12	Kerala	181,536
13	Madhya Pradesh	57,028
14	Maharashtra	196,487
15	Manipur	8,744
16	Meghalaya	2,972
17	Mizoram	5,506
18	Nagaland	3,290
19	Odisha	52,337
20	Punjab	359,464
21	Rajasthan	209,523
22	Sikkim	1,075
23	Tamilnadu	120,523
24	Telangana	28,200
25	Tripura	2,528
26	Uttar Pradesh	421,145
27	Uttarakhand	139,361
28	West Bengal	104,193
29	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	1,081
30	Chandigarh (UT)	9,160
31	Daman & Div and Dadra Nagar Haveli (UT)	0
32	Delhi (UT)	63,345
33	Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	76,624
34	Lakshadweep (UT)	0
35	Leh and Ladakh (UT)	6,354
36	Pondicherry (UT)	2,469
Total		2,778,951

Source: Rajya Sainik Board of respective States/UTs

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Andhra Pradesh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Anantapur	3,360
2	Chittor	8,156
3	East Godavari	2,983
4	Guntur	10,947
5	Kadapa	3,814
6	Krishna	4,441
7	Kurnool	4,174
8	Prakasam	10,729
9	SPS Nellore	1,880
10	Srikakulam	7,079
11	Visakhapatnam	13,983
12	Vizianagaram	2,773
13	West Godavari	3,593
Total		77,912

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Andhra Pradesh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Arunachal Pradesh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Longding	260
2	Tirap	179
3	Changlang	10
4	Namsai	8
5	Lohit	19
6	Anjaw	5
7	L/Dibang Valley	8
8	Dibang Valley	1
9	East Siang	38
10	Lower Siang	14
11	Leparada	21
12	Siang	16
13	West - Siang	44
14	Upper - Siang	2
15	Shi - Yomi	20

16	Upper Subansiri	33
17	Kamle	2
18	Lower Subansiri	64
19	Papumpare	24
20	Tawang	79
21	West Kameng	112
22	East Kameng	21
23	Pakke Kesang	1
24	Kurung Kumey	3
25	Karadadi	2
Total		986

Source: Rajya Sainik Board of Arunachal Pradesh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Assam		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Barpeta & Baska	3,654
2	Bongaigaon	2,743
3	Chirang	716
4	Chachar	6,283
5	Darrang	559
6	Udalguri	683
7	Dibrugarh	1,338
8	Tinsukia	641
9	Karbi Anglong & KBL (S)	518
10	Dhubri & South Salmara	428
11	Golaghat	1,198
12	Goalpara	741
13	Hailakani	999
14	Jorhat & Majuli	3,337
15	Kamrup (M)	3,424
16	Kamrup (R)	1,591
17	Nalbari	1,289
18	Baska	225
19	Karimganj	1,345
20	Kokrajhar	681
21	Lakhimpur	1,030
22	Nagaon, Morigaon & Hojai	4,906

23	Sonitpur	1,886
24	Sivsagar & Charaideo	1,747
Total		41,962

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Assam

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Bihar		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Patna	11,561
2	Nalanda	4,092
3	Bhojpur	21,323
4	Rohtas	5,239
5	Kaimur	2,088
6	Chapra	13,050
7	Muzaaffarpur	7,773
8	Stamarhi	1,937
9	Sheohar	229
10	East Champaran	3,756
11	West Champaran	2,429
12	Darbhanga	2,573
13	Madhubani	2,811
14	Samastipur	3,525
15	Bhagalpur	3,967
16	Banka	891
17	Katihar	1,160
18	Puruea	808
19	Ariria	212
20	Kisanganj	101
21	Saharsa	809
22	Madhepura	633
23	Supaul	311
24	Munger	3,097
25	Begusarai	1,614
26	Khagaria	1,441
27	Lakhisarai	765
28	Shekhpura	353
29	Jamui	281
30	Gaya	3,793
31	Nawada	915
32	Jehanabad	3,800
33	Aurangabad	1,895
34	Arwal	1,029

35	Buxar	9,238
36	Siwan	5,209
37	Gopalganj	2,001
38	Vaishali	6,817
Total		133,526

Rajya Sainik Board Bihar

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Chhattisgarh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Raipur	901
2	Dhamtari	190
3	Mahasamund	165
4	Gariaband	29
5	Balaoda Bazar	135
6	Bilaspur	634
7	Korba	165
8	JangirChampa	542
9	Gaurela Pendra Marwahi	21
10	Mungeli	54
11	Durg	2,175
12	Kabirdham	34
13	Balaod	395
14	Bemetara	77
15	Jashpur	675
16	Raigarh	176
17	Rajnandgaon	238
18	Baikunthpur	128
19	Ambikapur	185
20	Surajpur	55
21	Balrampur	109
22	Jagdarpur	62
23	Dantewada	19
24	Narayanpur	9
25	Bijapur	5
26	Kondagaon	59
27	Sukma	4
28	Kanker	250
Total		7,491

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Chhattisgarh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Goa		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	DSW Goa	2,345
2	South Goa	
3	North Goa	
Total		2,345

Source : Rajya Sainik Board Goa

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Gujarat		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ahmedabad	6,677
2	Gandhinagar	1,350
3	Anand	529
4	Kheda	746
5	Chhotaudepur	158
6	Vadodara	5,082
7	Bharuch	407
8	Surat	849
9	Tapi	100
10	Dangs	20
11	Narmada	101
12	Navsari	168
13	Valsad	201
14	Jamnagar	1,779
15	Devbhumi Dwarka	399
16	Porbandar	490
17	Gir Somnath	305
18	Junagadh	1,049
19	Rajkot	1,225
20	Surendranagar	1,045
21	Bhavnagar	795
22	Amreli	174
23	Morbi	448
24	Botad	66
25	Sabarkantha	1,911
26	Aravalli	1,973
27	Kutchh	1,183
28	Mehsana	1,279
29	Banaskatha	529
30	Patan	354
31	Panchmahal	727

32	Mahisagar	803
33	Dahon	553
Total		33,475

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Gujarat

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Haryana		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ambala	7,592
2	Bhiwani	7,157
3	Faridabad	6,370
4	Fatehabad	2,118
5	Gurgaon	16,028
6	Hisar	10,019
7	Jhajjar	19,766
8	Jind	9,930
9	Kaithal	3,086
10	Karnal	5,150
11	Kurukshetra	6,569
12	Narnaul	10,352
13	Panipat	3,673
14	Palwal	3,164
15	Panchkula	3,586
16	Rohtak	19,553
17	Rewari	11,655
18	Sonapat	15,599
19	Sirsa	1,197
20	Yamuna Nagar	6,076
21	Charkhi Dadri	6,997
Total		175,637

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Haryana

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Himachal Pradesh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Kangra	53,678
2	Hamirpur	19,734
3	Mandi	15,674
4	Una	12,531
5	Bilaspur	8,628
6	Chamba	3,780
7	Solan	4,644
8	Shimla	4,183

9	Sirmour	3,665
10	Kullu	1,216
11	Kinnaur	501
12	Lahaul & Spiti	342
Total		128,576

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Himachal Pradesh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Jharkhand		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ranchi	10,955
2	Palamau	1,002
3	Garhwa	271
4	Latehar	319
5	Khunti	621
6	Dumka	1,308
7	Deoghar	262
8	Sahibganj	470
9	Pakur	79
10	Godda	373
11	Jamtara	41
12	West Singhbhum Chaibasa	3,268
13	East Singhbhum Chaibasa	2,146
14	Seraikela-Kharsawan	331
15	Hazaribag	743
16	Ramgarh	212
17	Giridih	197
18	Koderma	166
19	Chatra	211
20	Dhanbad	554
21	Bokaro	677
22	Gumla	4,399
23	Lohardaga	1,000
24	Simdega	488
Total		30,093

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Jharkhand

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Karnataka		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Bangalore (Urban)	31,818
2	Bangalore (Rural)	4,661
3	Belagavi	24,092
4	Vijayapura	2,905
5	Dharwad	6,416
6	Kalaburagi	2,454
7	Karwar	1,903
8	Madikeri	4,542
9	Mangaluru	3,241
10	Mysuru	4,095
11	Shivamogga	1,754
12	Bagalkot	3,073
13	Hassan	3,049
Total		94,003

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Karnataka

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Kerala		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Thiruvananthapuram	23,950
2	Kollam	19,699
3	Pathanamthitta	19,336
4	Idukki	1,895
5	Kottayam	10,149
6	Alappuzha	28,364
7	Ernakulam	13,853
8	Thrissur	12,788
9	Palakkad	13,216
10	Malappuram	5,795
11	Kozhikode	12,899
12	Wayanad	1,844
13	Kannur	15,736
14	Kasaragod	2,012
Total		181,536

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Kerala

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Madhya Pradesh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Betul	1,229
2	Bhind	7,323
3	Bhopal	4,308
4	Vidisha	232
5	Sehore	343
6	Raisen	239
7	Chhattarpur	379
8	Panna	167
9	Chhindwara	582
10	Damoh	196
11	Katni	519
12	Khandwa	238
13	Burhanpur	152
14	Barwani	82
15	Khargone	348
16	Gwalior	6,335
17	Datia	171
18	Guna	105
19	Ashok Nagar	55
20	shivpuri	300
21	Hoshangabad	737
22	Harda	75
23	Indore	4,141
24	Dewas	1,160
25	Dhar	431
26	Jabalpur	4,554
27	Mandla	281
28	Mandsaur	305
29	Neemuch	255
30	Morena	4,759
31	Sheopur	29
32	Narsinghpur	447
33	Ratlam	330
34	Jhabua	54
35	Alirajpur	38
36	Rewa	6,876
37	Sagar	1,080
38	Satna	3,273
39	Seoni	202

40	Balaghat	204
41	Shahdol	283
42	Umaria	112
43	Anuppur	67
44	Dindori	34
45	Sidhi	1,744
46	Singroli	41
47	Tikamgarh	213
48	Niwari	120
49	Ujjain	1,124
50	Shajapur	420
51	Rajgarh	111
52	Agar	225
Total		57,028

Source : Rajya Sainik Board Madhya Pradesh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Maharashtra		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Mumbai City	8,125
2	Mumbai Sub	9,461
3	Thane	11,617
4	Sindhudurg	3,047
5	Raigad	3,868
6	Ratnagiri	3,776
7	Pune	34,643
8	Satara	20,429
9	Sangli	14,869
10	Kolhapur	13,581
11	Solapur	6,664
12	Nasik	9,302
13	Ahmednagar	10,784
14	Dhule	1,942
15	Nandurbar	285
16	Jalgaon	4,307
17	Aurangabad	5,143
18	Jalna	1,307
19	Latur	3,698
20	Nanded	1,362
21	Osmanabad	3,640
22	Beed	3,427
23	Parbhani	943
29	Hingoli	491
24	Amravati	82

25	Akola	2,211
26	Washim	801
27	Buldhana	4,588
28	Yawatmal	1,189
30	Nagpur	6,153
31	Wardha	1,188
32	Gondia	1,160
33	Bhandara	1,079
34	Chandrapur	1,148
35	Gadchiroli	177
Total		196,487

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Maharashtra

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Manipur		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Bishnupur	8,744
2	Churachandpur	
3	Chandel	
4	Imphal West	
5	Imphal East	
6	Jiribam	
7	Kangpokpi	
8	Kakching	
9	Kamjong	
10	Noney	
11	Pherzawl	
12	Senapati	
13	Temenglong	
14	Thoubal	
15	Tengnoupal	
16	Ukhrul	
Total		8,744

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Manipur

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Meghalaya		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	East Khasi Hills (shilong)	1,924
2	West Khasi Hills (Nongstoin)	33
3	South West Khasi Hills (Mawkyrwat)	7
4	Eastern Wet Khasi Hills (Mairang)	26
5	East Jaintia Hills (Khliehriat)	8
6	West Jaintia Hills (Jowai)	44
7	Ri-Bhoi (Nongpoh)	117
8	North Garo Hills (Resubelpara)	63
9	East Garo Hills (Williamnagar)	88
10	South Garo Hills (Baghmara)	17
11	West Garo Hills (Tura)	559
12	South West Garo Hills (Ampati)	86
Total		2,972

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Meghalaya

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Mizoram		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Aizawl	3,124
2	Lunglei	963
3	Champhai	788
4	Kolasib	631
Total		5,506

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Mizoram

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Nagaland		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Dimapur	531
2	Mon	146
3	Peren	15
4	Chumoukedima	261
5	Nuiland	54
6	Kohima	377
7	Tseminya	97
8	Phek	147

9	Kiphire	8
10	Mokokchung	826
11	Tuensang	133
12	Shamator	5
13	Longleng	15
14	Noklak	20
15	Wokha	477
16	Zunhebota	178
Total		3,290

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Nagaland

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Odisha		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Cuttack	5,310
2	Puri	2,292
3	Jagat Singh Pur	2,291
4	Kendrapara	2,574
5	Jaipur	2,409
6	Khurda	3,499
7	Nayagarh	1,687
8	Ganjam & Gajapati	9,235
9	Balasore	3,530
10	Bhadrak	2,037
11	Mayurbhanj	2,536
12	Kalahandi	1,963
13	Boudh	
14	Nabrangpur	
15	Naupada	
16	Kandhamal	
17	Keonjhar	1,533
18	Koraput	357
19	Rayagada	176
20	Malkangiri	23
21	Dhenkanal	3,599
22	Angul	3,385
23	Sambalpur	3,901
24	Jharsududa	
25	Bargarh	
26	Deogarh	
27	Balangir	
28	Subarnapur	
29	Sundergarh	

Total	52,337
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Source: Rajya Sainik Board Odisha

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Punjab		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Amritsar	32,374
2	Tarantaran	28,971
3	Bathinda	8,572
4	Faridkot	3,599
5	Ferozepur	3,691
6	Fazlika	2,482
7	Fatehgarh Sahib	5,054
8	Gurdaspur	41,505
9	Pathankot	20,839
10	Hoshiarpur	50,242
11	S.B.S Nagar	5,733
12	Jalandhar	42,222
13	Kapurthala	11,519
14	Ludhiana	35,256
15	Mansa	4,547
16	Sri Muktsar Sahib	2,846
17	Moga	11,509
18	Patiala	11,066
19	Roopnagar	10,217
20	SAS Nagar	10,775
21	Sangrur	11,679
22	Barnala	4,766
Total		359,464

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Punjab

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Rajasthan		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ajmer	10,762
2	Alwar	9,881
3	Behror	18,594
4	Barmer	2,155
5	Jalore	169
6	Bharatpur	8,927
7	Dholpur	684
8	Bhilwara	2,542

9	Chittorgarh	299
10	Bikaner	4,415
11	Churu	9,713
12	Jaipur	13,643
13	Dausa	1,548
14	Jaisalmer	1,844
15	Jhunjhunu	21,226
16	Chirawa	21,913
17	Jodhpur	13,398
18	Sheragarh	5,817
19	Kota	2,776
20	Bundi	1,146
21	Baran	323
22	Jhalawar	491
23	Nagaur	5,467
24	Didwana	12,168
25	Pali	2,895
26	Sirohi	509
27	Karauli	5,723
28	Sawaimadhopur	1,300
29	Sikar	11,313
30	Neem ka Thana	6,099
31	Sri Ganganager	1,525
32	Hanmangarh	3,207
33	Tonk	1,358
34	Uaipur	2,026
35	Rajsamand	3,219
36	Dungarpur	298
37	Banswara	85
38	Pratapgarh	65
Total		209,523

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Rajasthan

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Sikkim		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Zilla Sainik Board North/East	671
2	Zilla Sainik Board, South, Namchi	194
3	Zill Sainik Board, West, Geyzing	210
Total		1,075

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Tamilnadu		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Ariyalur	1,032
2	Perambalur	318
3	Chennai	9,245
4	Coimbatore	4,565
5	Cuddalore	1,563
6	Dharmapuri	17
7	Dindigul	3,155
8	Erode	973
9	Kancheepuram	8,130
10	Kanniyakumari	6,234
11	Krishnagiri	6,836
12	Madurai	7,972
13	Nagapattinam	1,204
14	Namakkal	912
15	Pudukottai	680
16	Ramanathapuram	1,523
17	Salem	3,177
18	Sivagangai	2,322
19	Thanjavur	2,935
20	The Nilgiris	1,868
21	Theni	6,213
22	Thoothukudi	4,045
23	Tiruchirapali	4,184
24	Karur	670
25	Tirunelveli	5,053
26	Tirupur	843
27	Tiruvallur	5,334
28	Tiruvannamalai	80
29	Tiruvarur	1,082
30	Vellore	19,651
31	Villupuram	3,249
32	Virudhunagar	5,458
Total		120,523

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Tamilnadu

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Telangana		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Adilabad	798
2	Hyderabad	6,614
3	Karimnagar	1,115
4	Khammam	1,047
5	Mahabubnagar	2,019
6	Meda Sanga Reddy	1,280
7	Nalgonda	968
8	Nizamabad	535
9	Ranga Reddy	12,804
10	Warangal	1,020
Total		28,200

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Telangana

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Tripura		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Dhalai	242
2	Gomati	279
3	Khowai	258
4	North Tripura	327
5	Sepahijala	227
6	South Tripura	159
7	Unakoti	222
8	West Tripura	814
Total		2,528

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Tripura

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Uttar Pradesh		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Agra	15,320
2	Aligarh	9,328
3	Ambednagar	1,331
4	Amethi	2,808
5	Amroha	1,164
6	Auriya	4,142
7	Ayodhya	5,373

8	Azamgarh	6,626
9	Badaun	2,916
10	Bagpat	9,217
11	Baharich	508
12	Balia	14,306
13	Balrampur	166
14	Banda	3,120
15	Barabanki	1,624
16	Bareilly	9,155
17	Basti	2,396
18	Bhadohi	378
19	Bijnor	2,267
20	Bulandshahar	27,471
21	Chandauli	2,705
22	Chitrakoot	822
23	Deoria	6,674
24	Etah	10,991
25	Etawah	7,344
26	Fatehgarh	7,989
27	Fatehpur	6,695
28	Firozabad	4,996
29	GB Nagar	9,128
30	Ghaziabad	6,701
31	Ghazipur	29,417
32	Gonda	2,769
33	Gorakhpur	6,804
34	Hamirpur	1,762
35	Hapur	4,496
36	Hardoi	4,643
37	Hathras	6,849
38	Jalaun	3,687
39	Jaunpur	3,252
40	Jhansi	2,101
41	Kannauj	3,664
42	Kanpur Dehat	5,576
43	Kanpur Nagar	14,246
44	Kasganj	806
45	Kaushambi	1,437
46	Kheri	2,170
47	Kushinagar	9,349
48	Lalitpur	153
49	Lucknow	27,473
50	Maharajganj	1,214

51	Mahoba	300
52	Mainpuri	9,936
53	Mathura	10,510
54	Mau	5,085
55	Meerut	14,306
56	Mirzapur	1,760
57	Moradabad	1,268
58	Muzaffar Nagar	4,446
59	Pilibhit	884
60	Pratapgarh	6,514
61	Prayagraj	8,995
62	Raibareli	7,248
63	Rampur	1,742
64	Saharanpur	3,917
65	Sambhal	931
66	Santkabar Nagar	971
67	Shahjahanpur	2,634
68	Shamli	3,393
69	Shravasti	139
70	Siddharth Nagar	632
71	Sitapur	1,199
72	Sonbhadra	304
73	Sultanpur	6,128
74	Unnao	4,800
75	Varanasi	7,574
Total		421,145

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Uttar Pradesh

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Uttarakhand		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Almora	9,599
2	Bageshwar	7,838
3	Chamoli	11,059
4	Champawat	3,682
5	Dehradun	29,357
6	Haridwar	5,426
7	Lansdowne	15,064
8	Pauri	13,534
9	Nainital	6,949
10	Pithoragarh	18,146
11	Rudraprayag	3,605
12	Tehri	5,139
13	Udham Singh Nagar	8,814

14	Uttarkashi	1,149
Total		139,361

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Uttarakhand

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - West Bengal		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	North 24 Parganas	18,449
2	South 24 Parganas	5,507
3	Jalpaiguri	2,632
4	Kolkata	7,073
5	Burdwan	9,845
6	Howrah	6,469
7	Malda	2,256
8	Murshidabad	7,227
9	Coochbehar	1,814
10	Alipurduar	1,141
11	Darjeeling	16,165
12	Nadia	10,139
13	Dakshin Dinajpur	2,409
14	Midnapore	13,067
Total		104,193

Source: Rajya Sainik Board West Bengal

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Andaman & Nicobar (UT)		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	RSB Port Blair	1,081
Total		1,081

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Andaman & Nicobar (UT)

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Chandigarh (UT)		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	ZSWO, Chandigarh (UT)	9,160
Total		9,160

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Chandigarh (UT)

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Delhi		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	RSB Delhi	63,345
Total		63,345

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Delhi

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Jammu & Kashmir (UT)		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Jammu#	12,070
2	Jammu\$	7,685
3	Jammu^	8,669
4	Samba	11,498
5	Udhampur	4,103
6	Reasi	532
7	Kathua	1,171
8	Poonch	8,442
9	Rajouri	3,127
10	Doda	8,744
11	Kishtwar	1,869
12	Ramban	924
13	Srinagar	199
14	Budgam	265
15	Ganderbal	118
16	Anantnag	1,423
17	Pulwama	345
18	Kulgam	417
19	Shopian	43
20	Baramulla	1,492
21	Bandipora	1,242
22	Kupwara	2,246
Total		76,624

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Jammu & Kashmir

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Leh & Ladakh (UT)		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Leh	4,921
2	Kargil	1,433
Total		6,354

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Leh & Ladakh (UT)

Census Data of ESMs as on 31.12.2023 - Pondicherry (UT)		
S. No.	Districts	Total
1	Puducherry	1,794
2	Karaikal	326
3	Mahe	310
4	Yanam	39
Total		2,469

Source: Rajya Sainik Board Pondicherry (UT)

URCs & EXTENSION COUNTERS

Ser. No.	State/UT	URCs	Extn Counters	Total
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21	1	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	50	8	58
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	108	4	112
4.	Assam	181	6	187
5.	Bihar	23	4	27
6.	Chandigarh	15	1	16
7.	Chattisgarh	5	3	8
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	0	1
9.	Delhi	120	21	141
10.	Goa	10	4	14
11.	Gujarat	79	6	85
12.	Haryana	142	13	155
13.	Himachal Pradesh	79	38	117
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	438	18	456
15.	Jharkhand	33	3	36
16.	Karnataka	66	25	91
17.	Kerala	44	3	47
18.	Ladakh	178	6	184
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	97	1	98
21.	Maharashtra	199	31	230
22.	Manipur	38	5	43
23.	Meghalaya	21	0	21
24.	Mizoram	9	2	11
25.	Nagaland	46	3	49
26.	Odisha	23	4	27
27.	Puducherry	3	0	3
28.	Punjab	352	21	373
29.	Rajasthan	285	17	302
30.	Sikkim	42	0	42
31.	Tamil Nadu	70	28	98
32.	Telangana	77	13	90
33.	Tripura	10	1	11
34.	Uttar Pradesh	278	24	302
35.	Uttarakhand	147	21	168
36.	West Bengal	196	11	207
Total		3486	346	3832

STATE/UT WISE DETAILS OF ECHS POLYCLINICS

Ser. No.	State/ UTs	Polyclinics
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4.	Assam	12
5.	Bihar	18
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	1
7.	Chhatisgarh	4
8.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli (UT)	-
9.	Daman & Diu (UT)	-
10.	Goa	2
11.	Gujarat	6
12.	Haryana	33
13.	Himachal Pradesh	19
14.	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	14
15.	Jharkhand	7
16.	Karnataka	17
17.	Kerala	23
18.	Lakshadweep (UT)	-
19.	Madhya Pradesh	13
20.	Maharashtra	29
21.	Manipur	2
22.	Meghalaya	1
23.	Mizoram	2
24.	Nagaland	1
25.	New Delhi (UT)	6
26.	Odisha	9
27.	Punjab	37
28.	Puducherry (UT)	1
29.	Rajasthan	32
30.	Sikkim	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	27
32.	Telangana	15
33.	Tripura	1
34.	Uttar Pradesh	49
35.	Uttarakhand	21
36.	West Bengal	16
Total		427

DETAILS OF SAINIK REST HOUSES IN STATES/UTs

Ser. No.	State	No. of SRH	Details
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	Anantapuramu, Kadapa, Guntur, Kakinada, Kurnool, SPS Nellore, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	Nil
3.	Assam	7	Guwahati, Cachar, Jorhat, Dima Hasao, Haflong, Karbi Anglong, Dhubri and Mangal Dai
4.	Bihar	8	Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Chapra, Munger, Gaya, Katihar, Motihari and Patna (Danapur Cantt)
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Jashpur and Jadalpur
6.	Delhi	1	Naraina Delhi
7.	Goa	0	Nil
8.	Gujarat	4	Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara and Surat
9.	Haryana	29	Ambala Cantt, Ambala City, Ateli, Bahadurgarh, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Faridabad, Gohana, Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Kanina, Karnal (Old), Karnal (New), Kosli, Kurukshetra, Loharu, Mohindergarh, Narnaul, Panipat, Punchkula, Rewari, Rohtak (Old), Rohtak (New), Sirsa, Sonapat and Yamuna Nagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24	Bilaspur, Ghumarwin, Chamba, Chowari, Hamirpur, Sujampur Tihra, Dharamshala, Dehra, Jawalamukhi, Kangra, Nurpur, Palampur, Kullu, Keylong, Mandi, Sarkaghat, Nahan, Poanta, Shimla, Rekonig Peo, Matiana, Solan, Parwanoo and Una.

11.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Basohli, Udhampur, Ram Nagar, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Kupwara, Srinagar, Rajouri & Akhnoor
12.	Jharkhand	5	Chaibasa, Dumka, Hazribag, Gumla and Ranchi
13.	Karnataka	10	Bangalore, Belgavi, Athali (Belgaum), Dharwad, Bijapur, Karwar, Madikeri, Mysore, Shimoga, and Mangalore
14.	Kerala	7	Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Thalappady, Malappuram, Thoothukudi & Thiruvananthapuram

Ser. No.	State	No. of SRH	Details
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17	Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Sagar, Bhind, Morena, Chhindwara, Hoshangabad, Rewa, Satna, Ratlam, Khandwa, Ujjain, Betul, Sidhi & Narsinghpur
16.	Maharashtra	30	Sawantwadi, Mahad, Poladpur, Mangaon, Gondhalpada – Alibag, Ratnagiri, Burumtali, Naupada, Sinhgarh, Ajankitata, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, Pandharpur, Nashik-02, Malegaon, Ahmednagar, Shrigonda, Dhule, Nagpur, Amaravati, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Nanded, and Jalna
17.	Manipur	0	NIL
18.	Meghalaya	0	NIL
19.	Mizoram	2	Aizawl and Lunglei
20.	Nagaland	7	Dimapur, Mokochung, Wokha, Zunheboto, Phek, Tuensang and Jaluki
21.	Orissa	3	Cuttack, Bhubneshwar and Berhampur
22.	Punjab	16	Amritsar, Bathinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur,

			Chandigarh, SAS Nagar and Muktsar
23.	Rajasthan	32	Ajmer, Beawar, Alwar, Behror, Bansur, Patel Nagar, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Churu, Chirawa, Deedawana, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Pokaran, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Shergarh, Kota, Jhalawar, Nagaur, Sojat Pali, Gadka Ki Chowki, Swai Madhopur, Sikar, Neem Ka Thana, Ganganagar, Udaipur, Bhim, Rajasamand, Hanumangarh, and Rajgarh
24.	Sikkim	6	Gangtok, Namchi, Jorethang, Gyalshing, Heegaon and Singtam
25.	Tamil Nadu	8	Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Nagercoil, Thoothukudi, Madurai, Erode & Thanjavur
26.	Telangana	1	Somajiguda
27.	Tripura	1	Agartala
28.	Uttarakhand	36	Almora, Chakhutiya, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Gopeshwar, Dehradun (02), Gauchar, Lansdowne, Kotdwara, Haldwani, Pauri Garhwal, Tanakpur, Thalısain, Dhumakot, Srinagar, Pithoragarh, Munsıari, Didıhat, Berınag, Champavat, Devsthal, Tehrı Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Ramnagar, Rıshıkesh, Narendra Nagar, Rudrapur, Khatıma, Harıdwar, Roorkee, Rudraprayag, Ukhımath, Jamanıkhal, Ghansalı and Jakholí

29.	Uttar Pradesh	56	Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Ajamgarh, Bahraich, Balia, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Kasganj, Basti, Bulndshahar, Devaria, Etawah, Ayodhya, Fatehgarh, Fatehpur, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur Nagar, Khiri, Kesarbagh, Mainpuri, Mathura, Kushinagar, Mirzapur, Muzaffarnagar, Pratapgarh, Raibareilly, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shajahanpur, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao, Varansi, Gaziabad, Etah, Maharajganj, Moradabad, Bijnor, Bhadohi, Kanpur Dehat, Mahoba, Badaun, Prayagraj, Meerut, Mau, Kaushambi, and Balrampur.
30.	West Bengal	8	Kolkata, Burdwan, Midnapur, Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Karseong and Bagdogra
31.	A & N Islands	0	Nil
32.	Chandigarh	1	Sector 21 D, Chandigarh
33.	Puducherry (UT)	1	Mudayanpet
34.	Ladakh(UT)	1	Leh
Total		349	

Budgetary Provisions

Recommendation No.26

The committee observe that Defence pensions, under the Ministry of Defence provides for Pensionary charges in respect of retired Defence personnel (including Defence civilian employees) of the three services viz. Army, Navy and Air Force and employees of erstwhile Indian ordnance Factories etc. It covers payment of Service pension, gratuity, family pension, disability pension, commuted value of pension, leave encashment amongst others. The committee are informed that the total number of Defence pensioners in the country is 32,94,181 including 6,14,536 Defence civilian Pensioners and 26,79,645 Armed Forces pensioners. The committee find that out of the total budget of ₹ 6,21,940.85 crore allocated to the Ministry of Defence in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25, an amount of ₹ 1,41,205 crore i.e. 22.70 percent of the entire Defence Budget has been earmarked for Defence Pensions. The Committee have been given to understand that the additional requirement of ₹ 11,000 crore for BE 2024-25 over

BE 2023-24 is mainly due to normal growth in pensions and impact of dearness relief. The committee understand that Defence pension provides much needed financial security to those who serve our country and therefore, recommend that, after taking into account factors such as increase in pension amount, enhanced Dearness Relief, additional funds, if sought at the Revised Estimates stage, may be favourably considered.

Reply of the Government

The Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2024-25 has been approved as ₹ 1,49,205.00 crore (Gross) and ₹ 1,41,205.00 crores (Net). However, after taking into account the relevant aspects/factors viz (a) Last years actual expenditure (b) The financial impact due to induction of fresh retirees of the current year (c) Financial impact of One Rank One Pension-III (OROP-III) (d) total assessed financial impact due to sanction of Dearness Relief (e) Restoration of commuted portion of pension after 15 years (f) Wastage on account of death/disqualification of pensioners, the Revised Estimates for 2024-25 has been projected as ₹ 157681.00 crs. to Ministry of Finance for consideration and the same has been accepted by Ministry of Finance and the ceiling for RE 2024-25 in respect of the Defence Pensions Grant has been intimated as Rs. 1,57,681.00 crs.

Further it is also important to mention here that pension being an obligatory expenditure, any additional amount sought under this grant in any particular Financial Year is forwarded to Ministry of Finance for consideration.

SPARSH-System For Pension Administration (RAKSHA)

Recommendation No. 27

The Committee learn that System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) is being implemented for meeting the pension sanction and disbursement requirements for Armed Forces viz. Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence Civilians. This Pensioner Portal provides a single window for the pensioners to avail the pension related services such as facility to view the forms etc. The Committee appreciate that a total of 28.24 lakh Defence Pensioners have been migrated to SPARSH. The Committee, in this regard, recommend that migration process of the remaining Defence pensioners be expedited and the Committee be apprised accordingly.

Reply of the Government

In light of the significant inconsistencies in the Data provided by the erstwhile Pension Disbursing Agencies/Banks and its cascading impact on SPARSH system due to increasing grievances, a calibrated approach will be undertaken to migrate balance of 2,54,692 cases to ensure flawless migration of balance legacy pensioners. Proactive measures are being undertaken to facilitate accurate data updation and conversion, thereby ensuring a seamless migration process and minimizing errors in pensioners records post-migration.

CHAPTER - III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government

-Nil-

CHAPTER - IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee

-Nil-

CHAPTER - V

Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited

-Nil-

**New Delhi;
05 August, 2025
14 Sravana 1947 (Saka)**

**RADHA MOHAN SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Defence**

APPENDIX I

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 5th August, 2025 from 1500 hrs to 1600 hrs in Committee Room No. 1, Block A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha	
2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Ranjit Dutta
5	Captain Viriato Fernandes
6	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
7	Ms. S. Jothimani
8	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
9	Shri Shashank Mani
10	Shri Lumba Ram
11	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
12	Shri Jagadish Shettar
13	Shri Virendra Singh
14	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
15	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha
Rajya Sabha	
16	Shri Naresh Bansal
17	Shri Prem Chand Gupta
18	Shri Muzibulla Khan
19	Shri Praful Patel
20	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
21	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Juby Amar | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Ajay Kumar Prasad | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them about the agenda for the Sitting *i.e.* consideration and adoption of the draft Action Taken Reports on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 and briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Defence on the subject 'Consolidation of Defence lands by Defence Estates Organization and working of Cantonment Boards'.

3. The Committee then took up the following four draft Reports for consideration:

- (i) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Estates Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)';
- (ii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';
- (iii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Third Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning (Demand No. 21)'; and
- (iv) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations

contained in the Fourth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services) – New DPSUs and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand Nos. 20 and 21).

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the above Reports without any modifications. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Report and present the same to the Parliament on a date convenient to him.

5. *****

The Committee then adjourned.

*****Does not pertain to the Reports

APPENDIX II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT (18TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 ON 'GENERAL DEFENCE BUDGET, BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION, INDIAN COAST GUARD, DEFENCE ESTATES ORGANISATION, DEFENCE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS, WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND DEFENCE PENSION (DEMAND NOS. 19 AND 22)'.

1. Total No. of Recommendations 27
2. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II):

Recommendation Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16, 17,18,19, 20,21,22,23,24,25,26 and 27.

Total : 27

Percentage:100%

3. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (Chapter III):

Recommendation Para Nos. Nil

Total : 00

Percentage:00 %

4. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV):

Nil

Total : 00

Percentage:0%

5. Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V):

-Nil-

Total : 00

Percentage:0%