

whose death/disability is attributable to military service. Besides, a senior officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary has been designated as a liaison Officer in each Ministry/Department of the Govt of India charged *inter alia* with the responsibility of ensuring due compliance, by the appointing authority in the Ministries/Departments and Offices thereunder, of orders regarding the reservation of vacancies in favour of ex-Servicemen and extension of other benefits admissible to them.

Foreign Exchange to Students Going Abroad

379. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been releasing foreign exchange to students going

abroad for studies; and

(b) if so, the number of students who were allotted foreign exchange and the amount thereof per student during the years 1990 and 1991 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India and selected branches of banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange have been releasing foreign exchange to students going abroad for higher studies on the basis of prescribed guidelines.

(b) Details of number of students who were allotted foreign exchange and the average amount of foreign exchange per student during 1990 and 1991 (January to August) are as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of students</i>	<i>Total amount of foreign exchange allotted</i>	<i>Average amount released per student</i>
1990	6,276	Rs 86.62 Crores	Rs 1.38 lakhs
1991 (January-August)	4,419	Rs 80.98 Crores	Rs 1.83 lakhs

New recruitment Zones for Armed Forces

380. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up of new recruitment zones for the armed forces in the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

more Recruitment Offices in different parts of the country are received, from time to time.

(b) Since the existing Zonal Recruiting Offices are adequately meeting the present requirements, it is not proposed to open new ZROs/BROs

Recruitment of Women in Defence Services

381. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Demands to open

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to recruit women in selected branches of defence services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The Government recently approved a proposal for have recruitment of women in the officer ranks of the Education, logistics and the Law Branches of the Indian Navy. Induction of women in the officer cadre of the Non-Technical Ground Duty Branches, e.g. Administration, Logistic, Accounts, Education and Meteorological Branches of the Air Force has also been approved by the Government. A proposal for similar induction of women into the Army is also under consideration.

Visit of Indian Business Delegation to USA

382. SHRIR. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:-

(a) whether a high powered Indian business delegation visited the United States during first week of November 1991 in an attempt to garner American investment and partners for joint collaboration ventures;

(b) if so, whether the delegation has submitted its report to the Government after the visit;

(c) if so, the extent to which the delegation has been able to obtain the American partners and garner foreign investment;

(d) whether the Government have examined the report; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-

WAR THAKUR): (a) The Government has not sponsored any business delegation to USA during the first week of November, 1991 in an attempt to garner American investment and partners for joint collaboration ventures.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Direct Lending by IBRD to Private Sector

383. SHRIR. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has intimated to India that International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has examined the possibility of extending direct loans to the private sector without Government guarantee in the near future;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the IBRD is likely to provide direct loans to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Priority Sector Lending By Commercial Banks

384. SHRIR. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to relieve the commercial banks of the obligation to reserve forty per cent of their total lendings to the priority sector at concessional rates of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other norms that are being revised