

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4270

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF FEMALE CADETS

Badi Shri Rajendra Kumar;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Manvendra Singh Shri ;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints about alleged sexual harassment of female cadets at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The allegations of harassment have been brought out by three Ex-women Flight Cadets, viz. Ms. Anshu Singh, Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl who were admitted for training in the Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad in January 2004 under the Short Service Commission for Women {SSC(W)} scheme. The three Ex-Flight Cadets failed in three or more exams during training, which exceeded the maximum number of failures permitted under the existing policy. Subsequently, the cadetship of Ms Anshu Singh was terminated on 28.12.2004 and that of Ms Sarabjit Jus and Ms Preeti Bahl on 13.1.2005. The allegations of sexual harassment was first raised by Ms Sarabjit Jus on 25.1.2005 through a written complaint. Ms. Anshu Singh did not make any such allegation during her interview with the officers of the Air Headquarters, although she announced it in the media later. Ms. Preeti Bahl only made a mention in her review application dated February 28, 2005 regarding a senior instructor demanding some undue cooperation, which she denied.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been convened on 18.3.2005, which is still under progress. Necessary action will be taken based on the findings of the Inquiry.