

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 39**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS MANDATE**

39 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has demanded special grant-in-aid from the Centre to cover establishment expenses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has accorded any approvals to the proposal of the State, or has any plan to transfer civilian area land along with its title rights free of cost to the state during the proposed excision of these cantonment boards; and
- (d) whether Government is making any strategy for the welfare of civilians residing in these cantonments in Himachal Pradesh?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) & (b): The State Government of Himachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 27.11.2024 has inter-alia informed that the State Government would require a special grant-in-aid from Ministry of Defence to meet the liabilities of Cantonment Board employees & pensioners, and that this aspect may be taken into consideration while taking a decision on excision of civil areas of Cantonments in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(c): The excision of civil areas from the limits of all 06 Cantonments in State of Himachal Pradesh and the modalities for excision is under consideration in consultation with all stakeholders. Further details relating to excision of civil areas of Cantonments are also linked to creation of Military Stations which cannot be disclosed being prejudicial to the security interests of the nation.

(d): Cantonment Boards provide various civic services to the residents including water supply, sanitation, roads, street lights, schools and hospitals, besides executing various welfare schemes including centrally sponsored schemes. Moreover, online services through e-Chhawani portal like public grievances redressal, building plans approval, trade license, water connections, water billing, sewage connections, birth & death certificates, property tax collection, OPD registration, Community Hall booking, Water Tanker Booking, Shop rent collection etc are also provided to the civilians residing in Cantonments.

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