

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4915
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2022

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR RETIRED DEFENCE PERSONNEL

4915. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any schemes for medical treatment of retired army men/soldiers/defence personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including funds allocated for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to suspend or withdraw any welfare schemes for retired soldiers and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the total number of people benefited from various schemes being implemented for the welfare of retired army personnel; and
- (e) whether the Government has decided to increase the fund allocation for the said schemes and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The government launched Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) with effect from 01 April, 2003. It aims to provide quality health care to approximately 55 lakh Ex-Servicemen and their dependents. The healthcare services are provided through 433 ECHS Polyclinics (427 in India and six in Nepal), Service Hospitals and ECHS Empanelled Medical Facilities in India and Nepal, which are supervised, controlled, and managed through 30 ECHS Regional Centres located across India, various headquarters in military chain of command and the Central Organisation ECHS. The scheme is funded by the Government of India. Fund Allocated during 2021-22 is Rs. 4438.19 Crores.

(c) to (e): The welfare schemes which had negligible/Nil subscription in the last five years from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) are being discontinued from AFFDF w.e.f. 01.04.2022. However, these schemes are funded with higher amounts from respective services and states/UTs.

A total number of 89,533 people have been benefited under AFFDF for the last three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) and Rs. 320 Crore have been allocated at Revised Estimate (RE) stage (2021-22) to clear cases of Penury, Marriage and Education Grants.
