CAG report on excess withdrawal of liquor from CSD

201. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG was denied access to the records of Unit Run Canteens for performance audit of Canteen Stores Department in 2009-10;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to excess withdrawal of concessional liquor authorized by the CSD as pointed out by the CAG report and the steps taken to avoid such practices in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Unit Run Canteens (URCs) are established from the non-public fund of the three Services and are non government entities. Arrangements already exist for audit of these Non-public Funds. C&AG has been informed in the matter.

(c) The units of the Defence Services can withdraw liquor as per their authorization. The CIMS (Smart) cards enable issue of liquor as per the authorized entitlement of the bonafide personnel/organisation. The indents are vetted by competent military authority. The drawal of liquor is well below the authorization of entitled personnel.

Action taken in naval war-room leak case

202. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken so far regarding naval war-room leak accused Ravi Shankaran's case;

(b) whether in the past ten years naval war-room leaks have been detected; and

(c) if so, what action was taken against such situations to curb naval war-room leaks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) A case under section 120B of the IPC read with sections 3(1) (c) and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 has been registered on 20.3.2006 against certain dismissed officers of the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force including Lt. (Retd.) Ravi Shankaran in the "Naval War Room Leak" case and presently trial is pending. The

accused Lt. (Retd.) Ravi Shankaran is absconding and is outside the country and evading the process of law. His passport has been revoked by Ministry of External Affairs and a red corner notice has also been issued against him on 12.5.2006. An extradition request was sent to the United Kingdom on 14.6.2007 and Head of NCB, International Criminal Police Organisation", London on 19.2.2008.

The Naval war-room leak in 2005 was the only such case in the past ten years.

In order to avoid such situations stringent IT security measures have been put in place in the Directorate of Naval Operations (including the Naval War-room). In addition, the Indian Navy has an elaborate Counter-intelligence set up to provide cover to all ships/units/establishments.

Extension of health insurance scheme to wider range of groups

203. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended a health insurance scheme earlier restricted to people living below the poverty line to a wider range of groups;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the modalities of proper implementation of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana Scheme which was launched in 2008 have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) was launched on 01.10.2007 to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs.30,000 per annum to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme has since been extended to building and other construction workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service), Act and street vendors.

In the Budget for the year 2010-11, the Government has announced to extend benefits of RSBY to all such MNREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during