

Compulsory military training scheme for youths

2212. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce Compulsory Military Training for youths of the country who have attained the age of 18 years or above;
- (b) if so, by when Government will introduce this scheme; and
- (c) what is the likely expenditure involved to implement this scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase of fighter jets

2213. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to seal a deal of 11 billion dollars to purchase new fighter jets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what measures have been taken considering previous scams in such deals to ensure that the amount will be spent for quality equipment and there is no scope for fraud?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The proposal for procurement of 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at an estimated cost of \$ 10.4 billion is being progressed as per the provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). In response to the Request For Proposal, responses were received from six vendors which are being evaluated.

(c) The capital procurement for IAF is being done as per the provisions of the DPP, which ensures transparency, probity and accountability.

Shifting RIC of DRDO from Dharampuri to Chennai

2214. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had decided to set up a Research and Innovation Centre at IIT, Chennai;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that earlier the DRDO proposed to set up the above Research and Innovation Centre in Dharampuri; and

(d) if so, the reasons for changing from Dharampuri to Chennai?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is establishing Research and Innovation Centre at IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai in order to harness the combined strength of academia, student community, research fellows, niche technology industries and DRDO scientists, so as to draw from each others strength to carry out research in advanced technologies. The Research Park would provide an eco-system wherein faculties of IIT Madras, research scholars, students and DRDO scientists will work together on cutting-edge technologies. Such a unique collaboration of the best minds is expected to greatly influence the direction of defence R&D in the coming years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Armed forces grievances redressal commission

2215. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed to set up Armed Forces Grievances Redressal Commission to address the grievances of armed forces;

(b) if so, the details of the directive; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 15.11.2010 has directed the Central Government to set up a Commission, named the Armed Forces Grievances Redressal Commission to address the grievances of both serving and retired armed forces personnel. The matter is presently under examination.