

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representations are at examination stage.

(c) Section 34 of the Cantonments Act, 2006¹ provides for removal of members in certain eventualities as laid down therein.

DRDO's objection for proposed ports in Orissa

2203. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has raised objection to the setting up of three proposed ports at Ichudi, Chandipur and Bahabalpur in Balasore district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternate sites suggested by Government in the nearby area for setting up of ports?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The said area is extensively used by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Armed Forces for test firing of missiles and various weapons. The proposed port at Ichudi is very near to the Launch Complexes. Movement of ships, etc. will pose a security threat to DRDO installations. Further, proposed ports fall within the notified area of DRDO and Indian Air Force where dynamic trial/firing of unproved armament stores are being conducted on regular basis. In view of the above, setting up of proposed ports are not recommended.

(c) No specific alternate site is suggested by the DRDO.

Confiscation of boats of fishermen

2204. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lankan Navy continues to apprehend Indian Tamil fishermen and confiscate their boats while fishing inside Indian territorial waters and often resorts to firing on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and