(b) if so, the objective of the group; and

(c) the time-frame for the group to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Task Force is to review the existing processes, procedures and practices in the national security system and suggest measures, where necessary, for strengthening of the national security apparatus. The term of the Task Force is for a period of six months with effect from 1st July, 2011.

Discrepancy in compensation between recipent of armed forces and Police Medals for Gallentry

1748. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a discrepancy in the monetary compensation and travel concessions granted to recipients of Medals for Gallantry in the Armed Forces *vis-a-vis* the recipients of the Police Medals for Gallantry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details are given in the statement.

Statement

Discrepancy in compensation between recipient of Armed Forces and Police Medals for Gallantry.

Government have enhanced the monetary allowance attached to various Pre/Post Independence Gallantry Awards for Armed Forces in March, 2011. There is no discrepancy, in so far as Armed Forces are concerned.

With regard to travel concessions, certain concessions benefits on travel by Air/Railways as applicable to Police Medal recipients are not available to some categories of recipients of Gallantry awardees in the Armed Forces. The matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities.

Purchase of AJTs

1749. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized deal to purchase Advance Jet Trainers for early induction keeping in view frequent MIG crashes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether it is fact that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been found using spurious spares while maintaining MIG aircrafts; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) In March, 2004, Government had signed a contract with M/s BAE Systems and M/s Rolls Royce Turbomeca UK for procurement of 24 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT) and with M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru for the licence manufacture of another 42 AJTs under Transfer of Technology from M/s BAE Systems for the Indian Air Force (1AF). All the 24 direct supply aircraft have been delivered by M/.s BAE Systems while 28 out of 42 aircraft contracted with M/s. HAL had been delivered till July, 2011.

In July, 2010, Government signed another contract with M/s. HAL for procurement of additional 57 Hawk AJTs from M/s HAL. Of these, 40 are for the IAF and 17 are for the Indian Navy. The delivery of these aircraft will commence from 2013 and is expected to be completed by 2016.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) No case of use of spurious spares by M/s. HAL has come to notice.

(e) Does not arise.

Sainik schools in country

1750. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Sainik Schools are in the country, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) how many cadets are in the NCC in the country, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) how much money Government is spending on both these institutions per year;

(d) how many students/cadets join the army from these Sainik Schools and NCC, the State-wise and year-wise details thereof; and