

Change in Format of Republic Day Celebrations

1602. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Republic Day celebrations seems to be only for the ruling elite of the country;
- (b) how many people even manage to go to Rajpath to watch the parade amidst security checks, frisking and horrendous traffic jams;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that *aam aadmi* is made to feel like an outsider; and
- (d) if so, what steps Government is taking to change the format of the celebrations and make them more engaging for the public?

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

(b) The seating capacity for Republic Day Parade at Rajpath is approximately 1.04 lakh. It is seen that generally all seats are occupied by the invites during the Republic Day Parade.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A change in the format is not found to be necessary.

Increase in Fragging Cases in Army

1603. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of fragging incidents have risen in the defence forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has established possible explanations for such incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether Government is taking steps to prevent such incidents;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details of fragging (fratricide) cases in the Armed Forces for the last five years, including the current year, are as under:-