(a) whether the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force have conducted any bilateral naval exercises in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of the Indian Naval ships which participated in the said exercises; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian Navy have been benefited by the said exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The first Japan-India Maritime bilateral exercise codenamed JIMEX-12 with Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) was conducted on 9th June, 2012, off Yokosuka, Japan during the deployment of Indian Naval ships to South East Asian countries during May-July, 2012. JMSDF ships Ohnami and Hatakaze, along with a JMSDF aircraft and Indian Naval ships Rana, Shakti, Shivalik and Kamuk participated in the exercise. The exercise included onboard interactions, Tactical Manoeuvres, Search and Rescue exercise and Steam Past.

(d) The exercise benefited Indian Navy in operational skills, doctrinal expertise, seamanship procedures, Search and rescue procedures and in enhancing Maritime Domain awareness.

Permanent Commission to women officers in Armed forces

2669. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army, Navy and IAF Chiefs have been directed to explore more avenues for granting Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers in the Armed forces;

(b) if so, what are the various instructions issued so far under three wings of Defence for granting Permanent Commission to women officers in the Defence forces; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons and circumstances under which no such instructions could be issued?

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

(b) Government letters dated 26th September, 2008 and 11th November, 2011 have been issued, *inter alia* laying down the policy for grant of Permanent Commission to Women Short Service Commission Officers in specified branches of Army, Navy and Air Force.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial irregularities in DRDO

2670. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several serious financial and other irregularities have been found in Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in internal audit report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has inquired into the matter and has fixed responsibility with regard to alleged irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) An Internal Audit of sanctions issued under delegated powers by various Competent Financial Authorities was carried out as an internal review exercise in the entire Ministry of Defence including Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The concerns raised by the Internal Audit are essentially in the nature of preliminary observations.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since the concerns raised by Internal Audit are in the nature of preliminary observations at this stage, the question does not arise.

(e) In view of (c) and (d) above, Question does not arise.

Budgetary support to Sainik Schools

2671. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: