

- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is a subordinate Organisation under the Department of Defence R&D in the Ministry of Defence and is governed by Central Government rules and regulations. Therefore, DRDO as an Organisation does not enjoy any special powers or autonomy because of its strategic nature of work.

- (b) In view of the reply given at (a) above, Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Financial powers of DG DRDO are being exercised by the Secretary, Defence R&D in the capacity of higher Competent Financial Authority (CFA) with the concurrence of Additional Financial Adviser (R&D) in the Ministry of Defence (Finance), pending final decision by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on implementation of Rama Rao Committee recommendations. Revised delegation of financial powers of DG DRDO was carried out in 2010 to address a long standing requirement and was done after due process and deliberation. The process of exercise of these powers has been further rationalized and, to this effect, a corrigendum has been issued by Department of Defence (R&D) on 21st November, 2012 as a partial modification to the earlier financial powers as issued on 30th July, 2010.

Setting up of forward observation posts on strategic islands

1287. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Navy plans to establish forward observation posts in strategically located islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that over 1,200 islands on the Andaman and Nicobar stretch were being analysed for setting up of such observations posts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Spying activity in armed forces

1288. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any spying activity has come to the notice of Government in the armed forces of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of cases registered during the last two years and the current year;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard, including the number of persons punished or arrested, etc.;

(d) whether Government has found out the agencies involved in such spying activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Three cases of spying have been reported in the last three years where serving army personnel were found allegedly involved in spying activities. The accused army personnel have been arrested in these cases. Appropriate action has been initiated against the accused person as per the law and laid down procedure in this regard. The cases are at different stages of trial at Civil/Military court. Some inimical intelligence agencies have been reported to be allegedly involved in the spying activities. Appropriate measures are concurrently in place to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Procurement of defence equipments

†1289. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given approval to the procurement of light support vehicles at a cost of Rs.1500 crore for army, special vessel for marine commandos of navy at a cost of Rs.1700 crores, and relief and rescue equipments for air force helicopters at a cost of Rs.100 crores;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.