

(b) if so, the details worked out so far and its implementation status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has proposed to set up a missile testing centre, including launch pad, at Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs.1200 crores.

(b) The proposal is at a very initial stage. So far, only proposal for requirement for land has been initiated with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Modernization of Navy

4521. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to modernize the Indian Navy keeping in view the increased strategic and economic importance of Indian Ocean and hostile postures of some of its neighbours;

(b) whether modern ships have been added to Indian Navy and aged ships have been phased out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. Modernisation of the Indian Navy is an ongoing process keeping in view the prevailing security environment, threat perceptions, emerging technologies and capabilities to be achieved.

(b) and (c) Induction of Modern ships and phasing out of old ships is done as and when required. At present 48 ships and submarines are under construction for inclusion in the Naval fleet.

Welfare activities undertaken by armed forces in NE region

4522. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence forces deployed in North-East have undertaken any welfare activities;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of parameters of welfare activities undertaken along with the achievements made during the last three years and till date;