

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the higher rate of fees in Sainik Schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to redress the issue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Few representations regarding higher rate of fees in Sainik Schols have been received.

Sainik Schools are primarily self-sustaining institutions. The State Governments are responsible for the creation/maintenance of physical infrastructure and meeting a portion of the recurring expenditure. A major portion of the recurring expenditure is met by the fees payable by the parents. The amount of the fee varies from School to school and also depends on contributions from the State Government.

The State Governments award scholarships on merit-cum-means basis to the boys of their respective States. Parents are reimbursed to the extent of the amount of that scholarship. Where the scholarship provided by the State Government is more, the parents stands to gain more.

Keeping in view the cost of living in general and the representations received from the parents, the Central Government has recently taken the following steps to lessen the burden of fee on parents:-

- (i) The rate of Defence Scholarship has been increased from Rs. 10,500/- to 32,000/- per annum per cadet of NCOs & Ors. In addition rate of defence scholarship has been increased from Rs. 5,250/- to Rs. 16,000/- in respect of wards of JCOs.
- (ii) The Central Government has increased the budgetary provisions of scheme of Sharing of burden of enhanced fee and dietary charges in Sainik Schools from Rs. 10.54 crore to Rs. 20.68 crore.
- (iii) The Ministry of Defence provides 100% additionality of pay and allowances of the employees of Sainik Schools arising out of the implementation of the 6th Central Pay Commission.

Marine defence exercise of coast guard with Sri Lanka

2223. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coast Guard has participated in marine defence exercise with Sri Lanka, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has deployed two Indian Coast Guard Ships and personnel for the exercise with Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Coast Guard has participated in a trilateral cooperation exercise involving India, Sri Lanka and Maldives at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka from 18-20 December, 2013.

(b) and (c) Two Coast Guard ships namely ICGS Vishwast with 103 personnel and ICGS Rajkamal with 41 personnel were deployed in the trilateral cooperation exercise.

Delay in projects of DRDO

2224. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) projects are lagging behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to recruit more scientists to complete such projects, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the ratio of scientists in DRDO at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The following are major ongoing projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lagging behind schedule:

Project	Probable Date of Completion (PDC)	
	Original	Revised
1	2	3
Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Phase-II	December, 2008	December, 2015
Naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA, Navy), Phase-I	March, 2010	December, 2014
Aero-engine Kaveri	December, 1996	December, 2009#