

Helicopters through 'Buy & Make (Indian)' route. Acquisition covered under the 'Buy & Make (Indian)' route would mean purchase from an Indian vendor (including Indian company forming the joint venture/establishing production arrangement with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), followed by licensed production/indigenous manufacture in the country.

(e) and (f) Hindustan Aeronauticals Limited (HAL) has decided to augment its helicopters manufacturing capacity of Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) from 24 to 36 helicopters per annum.

Infrastructural developments of Sainik Schools

2123. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists a large scope for further improvement of Sainik Schools in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government plans to spread Sainik Schools evenly in all the States and UTs and also starting intake of girls in Sainik Schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to sensitise the stakeholders for approaching Member(s) of Parliament for apportioning funds from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme to raise funds for the infrastructural developments of Sainik Schools?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Improvement of Sainik Schools is an on-going process. The Sainik Schools Society regularly reviews the working and the performance of Sainik Schools in respect of academic results, NDA intake, infrastructure facilities, etc. In-service training to the teachers and administrative staff is implemented with the assistance of experts from educational institutions/bodies like National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Service Selection Board (SSB) oriented training is provided to the cadets using professional resource personnel. Ministry of Defence also provides training grant annually to each Sainik School with a view to upgrade training infrastructure and skills.

(c) and (d) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a request from the State Governments who agree to provide land, funds for the creation and maintenance of

basic infrastructure, equipment and facilities and scholarships for the cadets who belong to that State. A Memorandum of Agreement is required to be signed by the State Government with Ministry of Defence to this effect. Apart from the existing 25 Sainik Schools in 21 different States, in-principle approval for establishment of 8 new Sainik Schools (3 in Uttar Pradesh, 2 in Rajasthan and 1 each in the States of Uttarakhand, Mizoram and Odisha) has been accorded. The primary aim of Sainik Schools is to prepare cadets (boys) for entry into National Defence Academy (NDA) which presently admits only boys. Therefore, there is no proposal to start intake of girls in Sainik Schools.

(e) In 2009, Raksha Rajya Mantri wrote to all the members of Parliament for apportioning funds from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme for infrastructure development in Sainik Schools. Thereafter, Principals of the Sainik Schools have been regularly requesting the local Members of Parliament in this regard.

Construction of Rohtang Tunnel

2124. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status and progress of construction of the 8.8 km. Rohtang tunnel and the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been any delay in its execution;
- (c) whether the BRO has faced any challenges or difficulty in its construction, if so, the details thereof and steps being undertaken to overcome the same;
- (d) the estimated time of its completion; and
- (e) the funds allotted for its construction and the expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Out of a planned length of 8.80 km. of the tunnel on Manali-Leh road, 4.807 km. has been completed covering 2.245 km. from Manali side and 2.562 km. from Leh side.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) The difficulties faced during the execution are:
 - (i) Encountering of Seri Nallah Fault Zone at the South Portal.
 - (ii) Variation between tendered rock class and encountered rock class.
 - (iii) Limited working season.