

(b) whether it is a fact that due to short supply of bullet proof jackets, entitled Army Personnel / Staff were not provided with the same in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tide over this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Bulletproof jackets are provided to Army personnel as per scales and authorisation. The procurement for the same is made from time to time to meet the requirement.

Sainik School at Puducherry

535. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only 20 Sainik Schools in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no Sainik School in Puducherry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry is planning to open Sainik Schools in various parts of the country; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons that Puducherry has not been considered for setting up of Sainik School?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) No, Sir. There are 25 Sainik Schools in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. No proposal for opening of Sainik School has been received from the Union Territory of Puducherry.

(d) and (e) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from the State Government. At present, 25 Sainik Schools are functioning in various parts of the country. Regarding Puducherry, no proposal for opening of Sainik School has been received from the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Memorial at Base Camp, Siachen Glacier

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

(a) the special arrangements made to rescue soldiers from the accidents of snow storms and avalanche in places like Siachen Glacier and whether there is any plan to improve such arrangements in future so that they may be strengthened; and

(b) whether any memorabilia will be erected in Base Camp of Siachen in memory of the martyrdom of brave soldiers like Hanamanthappa Koppad?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.