

- (a) Clustering of leukaemia cases; and
- (b) The incidence of such clusters due to influx of population from other areas to study area. Except these two sites, at no other sites of operating nuclear power plants any statistical health effects (cancer, leukaemia or genetic) have been reported.

Gymnastic Schools

1019. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gymnastic Schools that exist in the country;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal to set up more such schools;
- (c) when was work on the Gymnastic School at Tellichery, Kerala commenced and when was it completed; and
- (d) what was the total cost of setting up the Gymnastic School at Tellichery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). Government have not set up any Gymnastic Schools nor is there any proposal to this effect. However, under the Special Area Games Scheme of the Sports Authority of India, work on the setting up of a Gymnastics Training Centre (which is not the same as gymnastic school) at Tellicherry was started in July 1988 and the training activities are expected to commence in April/May 1990.

(d) The total estimated cost of setting up the Gymnastic Training Centre is Rs. 30.60 lakhs.

Private Agencies for Naval Base and Naval Academy Works

1020. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether major Defence Projects like Navalbase at Karwar and Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been entrusted to private agencies/consultants;
- (b) whether any objections to private involvement in Defence projects have been received;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons as to why these two projects were not entrusted to the Military Engineering Service; and
- (e) the estimated cost of these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) A Public Sector Undertaking, M/s. Engineers India Ltd., have been appointed as the Prime Minister Consultant for preparation of the Master Plan and Detailed Project Report for the proposed Naval Base at Karwar in Karnataka. An Australian-Dutch Consortium, viz. M/s. REDECON-NEDECO have been retained as the Foreign Consultant. M/s. Satnam Namita and Associates of Chandigarh have been selected as the Architect for the proposed Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Kerala, through an all-India competition. No consultant has yet been appointed for this Project.

(b) and (c) The All India MES Civilian Engineers Association, Cochin Area and the

Kerala MES Employees Union, Cochin have sent representations expressing their objection to involving outside agencies in these defence works.

(d) In respect of the Naval Base at Karwar, it is for the first time in the country that an integrated Naval Base is being designed, planned and established from scratch in a green field site. The complexity of the work involved requires introduction of very high technology in marine works. As all this technology is not indigenously available, a foreign consultant consortium has been appointed to assist the prime consultant in the work of preparation of a Master Plan and the detailed project report.

In respect of the Naval Academy at Ezhimala, since it was intended to be a very prestigious national complex, it was considered that architectural competition would draw the best talent from within the country in preparation of its Master Plan. This competition was open to the MES also.

(e) Firm estimates of the costs of these two Projects will be known only after the preparation of the DPRs.

Radio Activity in Coastal Districts of Kerala

1021. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies have revealed the existence of radio activity in the Coastal Districts of Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey in Kerala;

(b) if so, the causes for this phenomenon;

(c) the extent of radio activity and possible effects on man, animal and vegetation in the area;

(d) whether radio activity has been found in other coastal areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The beach sands of these coastal districts contain a radioactive mineral called monazite which results in the presence of radioactivity.

(c) The monazite content in the beach sands varies between 0.5 to 5% from location to location. Monazite is a rare earth phosphate compound and contain about 10% thorium (as thorium oxide) and 0.3 uranium (U 308). Studies so far conducted have not shown any statistically significant effects on humans, animals and vegetation in the area.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Monazite has also been found to occur in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

Arms Export Corporation

1022. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an arms export corporation aimed at gearing up the country's armaments industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed set-up?