

[English]

Scholarship in Sainik Schools

3883. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRIMANI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income slabs for payment of scholarship in Sainik Schools vary from State to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in income slabs throughout the country;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e). The eligibility criteria for scholarships (other than Defence scholarships) in Sainik Schools is laid down by the concerned State Governments. Accordingly, it varies from State to State. It is not possible to introduce uniformity in this regard as the payment of such scholarship is the responsibility of the State Government.

C&AG Report about Grey Iron Foundry

3884. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report No. 8 of 1991 presented on August 6, 1991 for the year ended 31 March, 1990 has pointed out about the management of the Grey Iron Foundry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e). The Comptroller & Auditor General, in his Report No. 8 of 1991 for the year ended 31-3-1990, has made some observations regarding working of the Grey Iron Foundry (GIF), Jabalpur, mainly relating to the following:—

- (i) Delay in completion of the capacity augmentation project sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.78 crores.
- (ii) Non-achievement of the planned levels of production even after completion of the augmentation project;
- (iii) High rejection rate.
- (iv) Avoidable imports an open market procurement of castings due to non-attainment of the capacity by the Foundry.
- (v) Higher cost of production of some major items in the Foundry compared to trade costs.

2. The above observations were inves-

tigated in details and the findings are, briefly, as follows:-

Delay in completion of the Augmentation project was mainly, on account of delay in the procurement of plant and machinery, which was on account of time taken for selection of machines, import clearance, release of foreign exchange etc.

Non-achievement of augmented capacity was primarily, due to inadequate manpower because of the embargo on fresh recruitment.

The high rejection rate or the high cost of production in GIF was due to technological limitations of the planned facilities and also higher overhead costs associated with the various staff welfare measures.

As a result of sustained internal R&D efforts, it has been possible to reduce rejections and thereby bring down the unit cost of production. However, it has not been possible to increase the capacity utilisation significantly due to decline in the workload from Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur. Efforts are being made to secure orders from the non-defence sector.

Amount spent on Diet in Sainik Schools

3885. SHRI RAJENDRA AG-
NIHOTRI:
SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on the diet of a student in Sainik Schools per day;

(b) the year in which it was fixed;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise it;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (A) The diet charge for the students of Sainik Schools, as fixed by the Sainik Schools Society, is Currently Rs. 10 per day per student.

(b) 1985.

(c) to (e). With effect from the first day of the 1992-93 academic session, the diet charge has been increased to Rs. 11.25 per student per day.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Benches of High Courts

3886. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT:
SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for setting up benches of the High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for setting up benches in each High Courts under its policy of de-centralisation of Judiciary;

(d) if so, the details thereof, courtwise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?