

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
RAGGING IN SAINIK SCHOOLS
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of ragging have been reported from the Sainik Schools in the country especially the Sainik School, Tilaiya, Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of students who left the schools due to such incidents during the last three years;
- (c) whether any voluntary organization has registered complaints in this regard with the National Human Rights Commission or the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;
- (d) if so, whether the said Commissions have requested the Government to conduct inquiry into the incidents and if so, whether the Government has conducted inquiry in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty and the concrete steps being taken to ban ragging in the Sainik Schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 344 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2011

(a)&(b): Stray incidents of ragging and bullying have been reported from Sainik Schools in the past. In the last three years, for a total of 12885 cadets in 24 Schools, a total of 11 incidents have been reported. One particular incident of ragging at Sainik School, Tilaiya was reported by the print and electronic media on 14th November 2011. However, no cadet or parent has complained/reported of any ragging to the Tilaiya Sainik School authorities in the last three years. As per records available in the last three years no student has left the school due to ragging.

(c)&(d): A voluntary organization, Jharkhand Human Rights Movement, has approached the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights regarding the ragging incident in Sainik School, Tilaiya. The Commission has asked the Ministry of Defence to get the matter investigated and to take further necessary action. A preliminary enquiry has been conducted by the school authorities in the matter. A senior officer of the rank of Brigadier was also sent by the Ministry of Defence to investigate the matter. It was revealed during the enquiry that the incident in question occurred one year ago in November, 2010. However, the matter was not reported by the victims to the school authorities at that time. The senior students responsible for the ragging passed out from the School in March, 2011. The Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand has also taken cognizance of the media reports and directed the State Government authorities to investigate the matter. The Jharkhand Human Rights Movement has also approached the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights regarding a second case of a boy who left the school on 27.03.2009 and has not returned since. He cited the fear of ragging as the reason for his not doing so but no complaints were received at that time.

This second case has also been enquired into. The enquiry report has concluded that the reason for the boy's sudden departure from the school was his homesickness and his father's ill-health. The father has confirmed in writing that he has no complaints against the school.

(e)In the specific case of the incident of mass ragging at Sainik School, Tilaiya, the Chairman, Local Board of Administration, Madhya Bharat, Jabalpur has been instructed to initiate a formal court of inquiry into the whole incident and specifically on the role of the school administration. During the Court of Inquiry the perpetrators will also be summoned so that their point of the view can be recorded. Further action will depend on the outcome of the Court of Inquiry. In Sainik Schools, strict action has always been taken against the perpetrators in all reported and observed cases of ragging. Based on the gravity of the matter, suitable action is taken such as counselling, community service, revocation of appointment, suspension and in extreme cases expulsion. In the last three years 13 students have been expelled as punishment for ragging, and 15 students suspended from school for 1-2 months.