

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5028
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
DISPUTE ON ANNANDALE GROUND
Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any dispute regarding handing over of the Annandale ground is going on between the Indian Army and the Himachal Pradesh Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): The State Government of Himachal Pradesh's land measuring 25.22 acres at Annadale has been under active occupation of Army since World War-II. A formal lease has been executed w.e.f. 8.4.1955 for a period of 10 years which was subsequently extended upto 1982. Though the lease was not formally extended from 1982, lease rentals have been paid to the State Government upto 2006. A joint inspection of the site was carried out by representatives of State Government, Army Headquarters and Ministry of Defence in July 2009 to resolve the issue. Subsequently, as per the request of the State Government detailed requirement of land alongwith the requisite parameters to provide suitable land were furnished by the Army. State Government offered alternate site in 2010. Government offered site was found not suitable as per the technical parameters and specifications considering the requirements of the Army. An arbitration petition has also been filed by State Government before Divisional Commissioner, Shimla. In view of the strategic and security point of view, the State Government has been suggested to maintain the status quo till a suitable land is identified by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.