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Title: Statement laid regarding status of implementation of recommendations in 8th, 10th and 11th Reports of Standing Committee on Defence.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 8th, 10th and 11th Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The 8th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) relates to 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence for the year 2005-2006'. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 20th March, 2006 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. Action Taken Statement on the recommendations/observations contained in the 8th Report of the Committee was sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 17th August, 2006.

The 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) relates to 'Armed Forces Tribunal Bill'. The Draft Bill was originally introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2005 and the same was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence by the hon. Speaker on 23rd December, 2005. The Committee presented its report to the Lok Sabha on 23rd May, 2006 and laid its Report in the Rajya Sabha on the same day.

Since the 10th Report relates to a Bill, no formal Action Taken Report is required to be sent to the Standing Committee on Defence as moving the Amendment Notice based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT- 6621/07

Defence will be the Action Taken Report in this case. The recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Defence have been processed in consultation with the Services Headquarters and the draft Cabinet Note circulated. Comments have been received from different quarters including Ministry of Law and Justice. The points raised by the Ministry of Law and Justice have been referred to the learned Attorney general of India for his expert opinion. Based on the advice of the learned Attorney General and comments received from other quarters, a revised draft Cabinet Note will be finalized and the Amendment Notice moved accordingly.

The 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence relates to Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence for 2006-07. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 23rd May, 2006 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day. Action Taken Statements on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence was sent to the Committee on 14th December, 2006 after seeking extension and Updated Action Statements were again sent on the 15th February, 2007.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in their 8th and 11th Report is indicated in the Annexures I and II to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of these Annexures. I would request that these may be considered as read.