

Supply of defective jackets to troops

128. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that ill fitted/defective jackets have been issued to troops this winter;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been initiated to ascertain the reasons behind the said lapses;

(c) if so, how many officers have been found responsible for the above poor quality of winter jackets; and

(d) if not, explain the reasons for not conducting the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (A) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Abandonment of IGMDP

129. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), launched in 1983 headed by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, in DRDO is being abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the salient features of the missile developed under IGMDP during the two and half decades indicating the cost incurred in each;

(d) whether Government has received offer for joint collaboration/cooperation in the development of missile technology from various countries; and

(e) the salient details thereof indicating the role and contributions by Indian Defence scientists being envisaged in proposed collaborations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following missiles and technology demonstration systems have been developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) :

- Agni, a technology demonstration project for re-entry technology.
- Prithvi, surface-to-air missile with 150,250 & 350 Km range for Army, Air Force and Navy.
- Akash, surface-to-air missile with a range of 25 Km and multi-target handling system.
- Nag, third generation "fire & forget" and "top attack" anti-tank missile.
- Development of Trishul missile system has been completed as technology demonstration.

The expenditure status upto 16th January 2008 for development of the above systems (in rupees) is as under:

Prithvi	—	298.95 Cr
Trishul	—	282.68 Cr
Akash	—	516.86 Cr
Nag	—	212.27 Cr
Agni	—	74.34 Cr (demonstrator only).

(d) Yes, Sir. There have been some offer for joint collaboration/cooperation in the field of development of missile system from various countries. One joint development project already exist for Long Range-Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) with Israeli Aerospace Industry (IAI), Israel.

(e) Defence scientists are involved in the design, development, test & evaluation and productionisation of missile and its sub-systems in collaborative mode.

Lack of scientists in DRDO

130. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is not lack of funds, but lack of scientists in DRDO to conduct research on strategic projects which is the main reason behind DRDO's time overrun of various projects which are of importance to India's security;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lab-scientist ratio is also too less in DRDO;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of the total allocated Budget of Rs. 6,336 crores for 2007-98 to DRDO, it could spend only Rs. 2,200 crores; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to address the exodus of scientists from DRDO and recruit more and more scientists with lucrative pay packages and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) There is neither lack of funds nor shortage of scientists in DRDO to conduct research on strategic projects. Time overrun of various projects is mainly due to the following reasons;

- Technical complexities.
- Technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes.
- Non-availability of infra structure within the country.
- Extended and long lasting user trials.
- Revision of systems specifications during development phase.

(b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of scientists at any level.