

Latest Bofors Gun offer by M/s. Celsius

†1385. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether original company M/s. Celsius of Bofors A.B. has offered its latest Bofors gun to India for trials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) M/s. Celsius of Sweden have offered to field for trials a 155mm gun mounted on a vehicle on "no cost no commitment" basis. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Upgradation of MIG-21 Aircraft

1386. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MIG-21 fighter aircrafts have been giving major problems and its upgradation having reached its optimum, the aircrafts are to be upgraded again;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the expenditure involved;

(c) how Government think that with another upgradation, the aircraft would regain its striking capability and minimise the air crashes; and

(d) whether possibility of an alternative fighter aircraft has been examined?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There are no major problems with the MiG-21

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.