

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Four user evaluation flight-tests of indigenously developed Pilotless Target Aircraft—"Lakshya" were successfully carried out during 11 to 17 April 1994 at Interim Test Range, Balasore. The main objectives of these trials were performance demonstration, re-usability, weapon engagement by Air Force & Army, miss-distance scoring and land recovery demonstration. Satisfactory performance was obtained with regard to these objectives.

(b) Firm orders for "Lakshya" for initial quantities are expected from Services around 1994, after which a limited series production would be undertaken. Deliveries would commence 24 months after placement of orders. HAL has been designated as the nodal production agency for "Lakshya". Bulk production is expected to follow when the transfer of technology phase is completed.

Implementation of Manual Commission's recommendations in Defence services

6968. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

SHRI J. S. RAJU:

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms of Mandal Commission for reservation to backward communities and most backward communities are being followed in defence selections and appointments; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to evolve schemes to implement the said norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Recruitment to the Armed Forces is open to all Indian nationals irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion or region. The endeavour has been to provide free and

equal opportunity to all sections of the population to join the Armed Forces and render service in accordance with the ideals of secularism, democracy and social justice.

In order to maintain the highest standards of operational efficiency, appointments and selections to the Armed Forces have been made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of caste, community, religion, area or class is laid down.

Cadre review in MES

6969. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cadres where they have not been reviewed or where reviewed, action has not been taken on the recommendation;

(b) whether no cadre review has been made so far in the clerical cadre of MES and the staff of the MES are on agitation for a long time; and

(c) the steps taken to carry out cadre reviews in all the cadres expeditiously and on the recommendations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are multitude of cadres under Ministry of Defence. Since many cadre authorities were not fulfilling the conditions of 10 per cent cut in strength, functional justification and full matching savings for cadre review, acceptable cadre review proposals could not be initiated by them. Wherever these conditions are fulfilled, further action of examination of the cadre review recommendations on merit is undertaken in the Ministry and orders passed accordingly.

(b) The initial cadre review proposal of MES clerical cadre was examined and found to involve repercussions in other Departments since clerical cadre is a common category MES authorities have accordingly submitted fresh proposals.

(c) In most of the Group 'A' cadres, review has been carried out and finalised. Cadre reviews in a few Non-Gazetted cadres have also been finalised recently. In order to expedite cadre reviews in other cases, it has now been decided to delink the 10 per cent economy cut in posts from the cadre review. Cadre authorities have been advised to process the review proposals independent of the 10 per cent cut and submit recommendations in this regard.

Import of pistols and revolvers

6970. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the makes of various pistols, revolvers and rifles which were imported from other countries during the last three years;

(b) what is their total value and the names of countries from which these were imported; and

(c) what is the portion of their indigenous production and what are the impediments in their indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) In the last three years there has been no import of revolvers and pistols. Some very limited quantities of a certain highly specialised category of sniper rifles, were imported from Russia. This being a limited, one time, requirement, indigenisation was not considered cost effective.

Temporary capping of Agni missile plan

6971. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agni missile plan is being temporarily capped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and compulsions therefor;

(c) how many times missiles have been successfully test launched;

(d) how many more tests are needed before it can be considered for deployment; and

(e) to what extent this capping will adversely affect the missile development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Agni is not a missile system but only a technology demonstration vehicle to establish manoeuvrable trajectory, re-entry and guidance technologies. With the third successful flight test carried out on 19 Feb., 94, Agni project has been successfully completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) AGNI — vehicle has been launched three times. First and third launches successfully met the mission requirements, whereas second launch was only partially successful.

(d) Technology demonstrator project Agni did not envisage development of missile for deployment as a weapon system.

(e) Does not arise, as there has been no capping.

Live bombs detected at Tughlakabad and Pali

6972. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 285 live bomb and 90 live bombs were detected from the containers received from abroad at the dry port at Tughlakabad and from the Army bunkers in Pali, respectively;

(b) if so, what are the facts in respect of each of the aforesaid incidents;

(c) whether the incidents resulted in any loss of life and if so, what are the details;