

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first India-China Joint Military Exercise was conducted from 19-27 December, 2007 at Kunming in Yunnan Province of China. One infantry company participated in the exercise and a total of 100 troops attended the exercise. The theme of the exercise was Counter Terrorism.

The exercise has given impetus to the ongoing Confidence Building Measures between the two countries and is a positive step towards increased Military to Military interaction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Joint exercises with other friendly foreign countries are considered on a case-to-case basis based on defence cooperation agreements and as directed by our National Security considerations.

Defence deals with other countries

963. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries having defence deals with India; and

(b) who are the first ten biggest suppliers among the above countries with quantum of orders placed on them (in U.S. Dollar)?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources to meet the requirements of Armed Forces. The import option is exercised when it is necessary to procure the items within a definite timeframe on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe.

Major countries from which the imports are made at present include Russia, the USA, the U.K., France, Germany and Israel. Divulging further details with regard to import of defence equipment will not be in the national interest.

Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards

964. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis and role of Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards;

(b) how well has been their performance and whether any survey has been undertaken to measure their performance;

(c) whether they do not even have basic facilities in terms of man power and accommodation;