

(c) WS-00946W Capt Neha Rawat accused Major General AK Lal, Ex General Officer Commanding, 3 Infantry Division of sexual harassment. The General Officer has been tried by General Court Martial and awarded sentence of dismissal subject to confirmation.

New weapons procurement policy

1738. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is willing to implement new weapons procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 54 per cent of procurement in the last fiscal from other countries shows that even after over 57 years of Independence, cutting edge technologies have not been developed in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 (DPP-2008) lays down the procedure for the acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. Procurement cases in which RFP is issued after 1st September, 2008 are to be processed as per DPP-2008. It includes the procedure relating to the formulation of Services' Qualitative Requirement, Acceptance of Necessity, Solicitation of techno-commercial offers. Evaluation of offers, Commercial negotiation and approval of Competent Financial Authority.

Import option is exercised only when it is necessary to procure an item within a definite time frame on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously. Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and develop the indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Substantial achievements have been made by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in many high technology areas such as Aeronautics, Missiles, Electronic Warfare, Advance Composites, *etc.*

R and D base for indigenous defence equipments

1739. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is laying stress on building a strong R and D base with accountability so that the development of defence equipment within the country is encouraged and dependence on foreign suppliers is minimized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering extending applicability of the recently promulgated integrity pact for weapons suppliers of deals worth over Rs. 300 crore to deals of more than Rs. 100 crore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Defence, in December, 2006, has given full powers within the budget provisions to Ordnance Factory Board for sanction of expenditure for applied R and D for carrying out product and process improvement and development of new products. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has also been involving a large number of Industrial Partners in various developmental projects.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Further signing of an 'Integrity Pact' would be considered between government department and the bidder for schemes exceeding Rs. 100 crore as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2008. The Integrity Pact is a binding agreement between the agency and bidders for specific contracts.

(e) Does not arise.

Same pay scale and Rank pay for military nurses

1740. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had recommended for same pay scale and Rank pay for military nurses with rest of army;

(b) whether Government has received any memorandum against this recommendation;

(c) if so, what is Government's view on it; and

(d) when Government is planning to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Sixth Central Pay Commission had recommended that the pay band and grade pay of similarly designated posts in Service Officers cadre and Military Nursing Service (MNS) cadre should be the same but the rates of Military Service Pay be lower for MNS.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to enhance the grade pay of middle level officers (excluding MNS) of the Services.

Purchase of substandard bullet-proof vehicle

1741. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army purchased 200 substandard bullet-proof vehicles and provided the same to commanders carrying out counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East endangering their lives;

(b) whether Northern and Eastern Commands and C and AG have found that the bullet-proof vehicles bought by the army were having several problems/defects in their functioning; and