

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the details whether Government is providing new planes in place of these planes?

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

(b) to (e) The technical condition of the existing aircrafts and requirement for new aircrafts are reviewed by the Government from time to time and necessary measures are taken thereon. This is a continuous process.

Permission to IAF to open fire against Naxalites

624. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF has sought permission to open fire against Naxalites in self defence in the event of its Helicopter and crew coming under attack and threat, citing instances of IAF personnel killed on earlier occasions;

(b) whether a specific permission is required when one is entitled to use force for the sake of self defence as per IPC in force; and

(c) what is the real purpose of asking for permission, how long it will take to issue due instruction on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) While permission is not required to exercise the right to self-defence, based upon past experience and intelligence input the Indian Air Force has sought approval of the Government for 'Rules of Engagement' for self-defence. These have been proposed to avoid any ambiguity and damage/injury to the helicopter and to the occupants.

Development of medium light helicopters by HAL

¶625. SHRI BALAVANT ALIASBAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has dropped its projects for development of medium light helicopters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the project started in 2006 for development of light combat helicopters;

(d) whether there is any proposal for export of indigenously developed helicopters; and

¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

(c) The design and development programme for Light Combat Helicopter was approved in October, 2006. The first prototype (technology demonstrator) is expected to get the initial operation clearance by around mid 2011.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) HAL has exported five numbers of the indigenously developed Helicopter Dhruv to Ecuador, and one to Mauritius.

Irregularities in Army recruitment

626. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army opened fire on angry aspirants who went on a rampage during an army recruitment drive alleging irregularities in the process in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh on 20 July, 2009, resulting in two deaths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Army recruitment scam was unearthed in Ajmer, where six Army men, including three Majors have been arrested for brokering recruitment at a camp in Jodhpur; if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many similar recruitments scams have come to notice, during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken to stem such rot in recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) An inquiry has been ordered into the alleged firing by Army during a Army recruitment rally in District Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh on 19th July 2009.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the allegations relating to corrupt practices during the recruitment rally held at Ajmer in July, 2009.

(d) and (e) No such other incident relating to recruitment in the Army has come to notice during the last three years. The recruiting procedure is constantly reviewed aimed at ensuring transparency and fairness.

Technical audit of various projects of DRDO

627. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the conflicting reports about delay in acquisition of Weapon- Locating-Radars, caused by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the success of Pokhran-II about its thermo-nuclear yield, coming from the concerned scientist and