

and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

Ship building capability of defence shipyards

3706. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the current ship building capability of defence shipyards does not match our annual requirement of six warships and one submarine, that are required to replace the navy's retiring ships;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present, only two to three warships are inducted every year, as it takes nine years to build a frigate in India, while the same is built in five years abroad; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to modernize the shipyards in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJEET SINGH): (a) and (b) The current ship building capacity of defence shipyards does not entirely match the requirement of Navy for replacement of ships in a phased manner. The build period of some indigenous frigates has been higher as compared to that of imported ships. In India, generally indigenous design and development of systems takes place concurrently with construction of warships. Delays occur primarily due to concurrent development and construction. The indigenous content of warship building in India has, been steadily increasing. Five indigenous warships were commissioned in 2005-06.

(c) The Government is providing assistance to modernize and to improve the infrastructure in Goa Shipyard Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, Mazagon Dock Limited, and Cochin Shipyard Limited to facilitate faster building of ships.

Import of defence items

3707. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imported any defence required items including raw materials for the defence use during the last three years;

[9 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, what items were imported and from which country these were imported;

(c) the details of the total money spent on each item; and

(d) whether any of these items is manufactured in our country with less price, but still Government imported from other country, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has imported defence items including raw materials for its use during the last three years also.

These items are sourced from various countries including Russia, the USA, the UK, France, Israel, Germany, Australia, Italy, Ukraine, etc. Divulging the details relating to these items on the floor of the House would not be in the interests of national security. The expenditure incurred on import of defence items during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revenue	Capital	Total
2003-04	4221.10	8431.84	12652.94
2004-05	3524.29	15740.95	19265.24
2005-06	4211.47	7890.02	12101.49

The question of importing required defence items available indigenously with less price does not arise.

Upgradation of roads in Uttarakhand by BRO

3708 SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Border Road Wing of the Ministry has taken decision to upgrade the National Highway in Uttarakhand from Rishikesh to Badrinath and Rishikesh to Gobind Ghat;