

completion of technology demonstration of capability for re-entry technology, closed loop guidance, and manoeuvrability required for longer range missiles under programme Agni, a flight test of the longer range IRBM class missile Agni II has been undertaken on 11th April, 1999 from a mobile launcher. Thus we have reached the point of operationalisation of longer range Agni.

Main Battle tank Arjun

1873. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the indigenously designed Main Battle Tank (MBT) "Arjun", which has been in the pipeline for the last 15 years, will roll out in the year 2003.

(b) if so, the features of the Main Battle Tank "Arjun";

(c) whether "Arjun" will meet the requirements of the modern warfare as set out by the Army;

(d) if not, the efforts being made to up-date the Tank;

(e) whether the procurement of equipment to be mounted on the MBT and other spare parts is yet to be negotiated; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir, the MBT "Arjun", is scheduled to roll out in the year 2003.

(b) A statement is attached (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

(e) Negotiations have been completed for all the major systems and sub-assemblies required for manufacture of MBT Arjun and in most of the cases, orders have also been placed.

(f) Not applicable, in view of (e) above.

Statement

The main features of MBT-Arjun are:

(a) 1400 HP Diesel engine to provide high mobility in all types of terrain.

(b) Low silhouette.

(c) Hydro-pneumatic Suspension System to provide ride comfort and a stable weapon platform for firing capability on the move.

(d) 120 mm rifled gun, firing highly lethal and accurate FSAPDS and HESH ammunition.

(e) A computer controlled Integrated Fire Control system to impart day and night fighting capability with higher accuracy and reduced reaction time.

(f) Armour for all round protection against all types of tank ammunition.

(g) Integrated Fire Detection and Suppression system.

Problems faced by Navy on Tamil Nadu Coastlines

1874. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy was facing problems posed by the LTTE on Tamil Nadu Coastlines;

(b) if so, the action taken to induct submarine with land attack capability to influence the primary battle on the land; and

(c) the other steps taken to make the navy strong and a viable maritime power?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The submarines have no role to play in the situation that exists in the Palk Bay.

(c) Modernisation of the Navy and review of existing force level