

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF is facing shortage of pilots due to large number of requests for early retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The present strength of pilots in Air Force is sufficient to meet its current operational requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The improvement in the job profile of the pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity. Besides, the Short Service Commission for Flying branch has been modified to also make both men and women eligible for induction in this branch. Further, the implementation of the recommendations of the VIth Central Pay Commission shall also go a long way in attracting youth.

Vacancies in various wings in defence

1401. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts vacant in grade-I, grade-II, grade-III, and grade-IV in various wings of the Defence force;

(b) the category-wise details of posts lying vacant since last five years; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up these long standing vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Acquisition of arms from companies under CBI scanner

1402. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed five multi-vendor trials involving two companies—Israel Military Industries and Singapore Technologies Kinetics which are under a cloud in India following CBI investigation of Ordnance Factory Board scam;

(b) whether according to Government, go ahead was given by Ministry of Defence following request from Army which expressed concern over delays in acquisitions;

(c) whether Government had earlier put on hold acquisition from seven companies;

(d) if so, whether trials have now been completed for 150 mm light weight assault rifles; and

(e) if so, to what extent final decision for obtaining these arms will be considered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) In the light of the names of seven firms figuring in the FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in May, 2009 in respect of various supply orders placed by Ordnance Factory Board, procurement/acquisition cases in pipeline with any of such firms were put on hold until further orders. Later, it was decided that multi-vendor procurement cases, presently held up at various stages of Technical Evaluation/trials, may be progressed further as per Defence Procurement Procedure-2008. However, no tender will be awarded to the companies mentioned in the FIR unless CBI investigation clears them totally.

Speedy implementation of death verdicts

1403. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that though when Supreme Court has given death penalties to guilty persons it takes long to implement death penalties due to lengthy legal procedure; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for speedy implementation of death verdicts to guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The cases of mercy petitions are processed expeditiously in consultation with the concerned State Governments/Departments and submitted for a final decision of the President of India, under Article 72 of the Constitution. However, the power under Article 72 of the Constitution does not contain any limitation as to the time, in which the power conferred might be exercised.

Amount sanctioned for implementation of coastal security

†1404. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has launched a special scheme to strengthen the coastal security of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government for the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the amount spent so far on the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Home Affairs is already implementing a comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme, which is supplemental in nature, in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.