

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (c) The Government has approved acquisition of three stealth frigates with state-of-the-art equipment and associated package from Russia. The frigates are expected to be delivered during 2011-2012. The induction of these platforms would appreciably augment the power of the Indian Navy.

Increase in cross-border infiltration in J & K

†892 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir have increased since sometime ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of infiltrators captured and killed by the para military forces in the incidents which took place during the last six months; and

(d) the details of injured and killed personnel of the army and para military forces in said incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 299 terrorists are estimated to have infiltrated till June 30, 2006 as compared to 92 in the corresponding period of last year.

(c) and (d) Till June 30, 2006, 43 infiltrators have been killed and one captured by the security forces. In said incidents, 2 security force personnel have been killed and 10 others injured.

Shortage of Helicopters in Military

†893. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of helicopters in the military which can fly on excessive high altitude and in minimum temperature; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing such helicopters to the military so far, and by when more helicopters are proposed to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) The Army is currently using Cheetah helicopters for reconnaissance and observation at high altitude and low temperatures. However, these are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposed to be replaced by the end of the 12th Plan, as these helicopters are old and inadequate for the present operational requirements. Also, Advanced Light Helicopters are being gradually inducted in the Indian Army for light utility roles. The Indian Air Force utilizes Cheetah, Mi-17 / Mi-17 IV and Advanced Light Helicopters for operating at high altitude and low temperatures. Government constantly reviews the security environment and accordingly decides to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness.

Procurement of unedible masoor dal by Army

894. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI AJAY MARCO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a court of inquiry has found that last year the Indian Army had procured around 1000 metric tonnes of "masoor dal", which was unfit for human consumption and that some officials were found guilty of ignoring quality-control specifications and changing the tendering process to benefit the supplier, thereby causing a net loss of rupees four crore to the exchequer; and

(b) if so, the details of the major findings/observations contained in the inquiry report and the action taken/proposed of be taken thereon, as well as the fresh steps initiated for foolproof and transparent deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) A Count of Inquiry was ordered by the Army Headquarters to investigate into irregularities relating to procurement of dry rations. The court of Inquiry found certain omission/lapses in the functioning and discharge of duties by various functionaries with respect to provisioning and supply of masoor whole, kabuli chana, barely crushed and gram kibbled. The competent authority has directed disciplinary action against six army officers and one junior commissioned officer (JCO) and administrative action against four other officers.

Raksha Udyog Ratna to private companies

t895. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is going to honour the private sector companies with the title of "Raksha Udyog Ratna";

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