

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the deficiency in production system of the shipyards?

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

(a) The Indian Navy has recommended introduction of modern and emerging techniques in shipbuilding in the country in order to reduce the built periods.

(b) Keeping in line with policy of Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Naval Staff has been encouraging the participation of capable private shipyards to augment shipbuilding capacity in the country.

(c) The Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai; Goa Shipyard Limited, Vasco-da Gama and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata are being modernized to augment and improve their production capacities to keep pace with the Naval requirements. Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam has also been added to Defence Shipyards to address the concerns of the Navy.

#### **Modernisation of T-72 tanks *vis-a-vis* in Arjun tanks**

3069. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the Ministry is going for modernising the ageing T-72 tanks @ of almost Rs. 5 crores per tank to extend another 10 to 15 years of life time which will make the effective value of the tank to Rs. 14 crores including the purchase cost of Rs. 9 crores when its 32 year life span has already come to an end; and

(b) the reasons why the Ministry is not going for Arjun tanks which costs marginally higher at 16.5 crores and given the superiority of Arjun tanks over the ageing T-72 tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Army follows a philosophy of having a mix of legacy equipment, equipment with matured technology and state-of-the-art equipment. T-72 tank is not an antiquated equipment. Therefore, the Army intends to retrofit/upgrade these tanks to enhance their mission reliability and life expectancy.

(b) Orders for 124 Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun have already been placed on the Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi. As on date, 85 MBT Arjun tanks have been issued to the Army. Keeping in view the production capacity for MBT Arjun tanks and strategic considerations, the Government is also exercising the option for modernizing T-72 tanks instead of total replacement of these tanks on completion of their life span.

#### **Crash of unmanned aerial vehicles**

3070. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned aerial vehicles of all forces crashed during 2008-09 and 2009-10, till date;