

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Procurement of defence equipment/weapon systems is done on a continuous basis in accordance with the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). Procurement procedures and processes are continuously refined on the basis of experience gained during the procurement process to improve transparency and reduce delays. DPP provides an effective framework for expeditious procurement of weapons and equipment.

Safeguard mechanism for farmers under EU FTA

2366. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the EU-India FTA has any safeguard mechanism for farmers;
- (b) if so, what are the mechanisms for import surges; and
- (c) if so, whether this safeguard mechanism is more beneficial for India compared to what it gets under the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Negotiations of the India EU Broadbased Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) are ongoing and final positions have not yet emerged. Negotiations began in 2007 with the 11th round of negotiations being held from 8th to 11th November, 2010.

Purchase of Globemaster planes from Boeing

2367. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newspaper report "All eyes on \$ 5.8 bn. Boeing Deal" appearing on 23 September, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details of agreement being signed with Boeing company for purchase of Globemaster planes; and
- (c) the reasons for not evaluating other aircraft manufacturing companies for purchase of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A Letter of Request (LOR) has been issued to the Government of United States of America for procurement of C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF) from United States of America, through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route. In response, Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) has been received, which is being progressed.

(c) A technology scan was carried out as per the Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 which brought out that the C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft best meets the operational requirements of a Very Heavy Transport Aircraft (VHETAC) class for the Indian Air Force.

Sword of Honour to a women cadet

†2368. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian military has honoured a women cadet with the Sword of Honour for the first time at Indian Defence Institute, Officers' Training Academy (OTA), Chennai; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Officers Training Academy, Chennai has for the first time conferred the award of 'Sword of Honour' upon a Lady Cadet Divya Ajith of SSC (W)-04 batch on 18th September, 2010. The lady cadet has been commissioned into the Corps of army Air Defence.

Setting up NID in some States

2369. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is setting up National Institute of Designs (NID) in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in Andhra Pradesh in the Eleventh Plan;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent for this purpose for the period; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Ministry of Textiles is not setting up National Institute of Designs (NID) in the States.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Action against retired armed forces personnel

2370. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of recent disclosures made in the electronic as well as print media about the serious irregularities having been committed by various senior officers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.