

Rosonboronexport signed a Shareholders Agreement on 9.9.2010 to incorporate a Joint Venture Company for design, development and production of Multi Role Transport Aircraft. This agreement was in pursuance to the Inter-Governmental Agreement between Government of India and Russian Federation which was signed on 12th November, 2007 for Design, Development and Production of a Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA). The Joint Venture company will have shareholding of 50% each from both sides. The investment for the programme has been worked out to be 600.70 MUSD at 2006 Price Level - which will be shared equally by the two sides. Development and certification of the MTA will take 6 years from 'Go-ahead' of the project. It is planned to start the project in January, 2011 after incorporation of the Joint Venture programme.

Naxals getting assistance from Maoists in Nepal

196. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any credible evidence of the Naxals getting any financial assistance or weaponry from Maoists in Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the matter with the Nepalese Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) CPI (Maoist) has been known to maintain fraternal links with the Maoists in Nepal. However, there are no inputs regarding the naxals in India getting any financial assistance or weaponry from Maoists in Nepal.

Indian Navy's request to take over certain islands in Goa

197. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy has requested the Government of Goa to hand over certain islands situated near the west coast of Goa;

(b) if so, the names of these islands, area thereof and details of ownership thereof;