

Services have effected 15% increase in the basic pay of all URC civilian employees in addition to 50% hike already granted to them during the year 2009.

Setting up of Independent Regulator for Defence land

1426. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an Independent Land Regulator and conduct a land audit as part of its internal reform process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move for this initiative is the recent Adarsh Housing Scheme scam and other related irregularities that have come to light;

(d) whether the proposed regulator's duties and responsibilities are different from the Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE) whose job is to manage 1.73 million acres of Defence land on behalf of the Ministry; and

(e) whether the Ministry has sought the opinion from the Ministry of Law and Justice and other stock holders in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Having an Independent Regulator for management of Defence land has been recommended by the Standing Committee of Defence. The Ministry has sought guidance from the Committee regarding the duties and responsibilities of such an Independent Regulator. The Ministry also wants to know as to how such a Regulator would be different from the existing set up of DGDE and how his independence will help in making him more effective. In the view of the Ministry, an Independent Regulator was useful when there were multiple players operating in the market and when Government itself may be a player. In such a situation, rules and regulations have to be formulated to ensure fair play and level-playing field in the market and any violation of rules and regulations so framed has to be punished. In the instant case, DGDE was essentially performing State functions *i.e.* management of Defence land on behalf of the Ministry. Final decision will be taken on receipt of guidance from the Committee.

Indigenous manufacturing of MCA

1427. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would be able to manufacture Multi Combat Aircraft (MCA) for Indian Air Force in next five years;

(b) if so, state the target year of test flight; and

(c) if not, for how many years does Government propose to continue importing MCA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Feasibility study for Design and Development (D&D) of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is being undertaken by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru. Based on the feasibility study, ADA would be able to define technologies required for the aircraft alongwith timelines for D&D and subsequent manufacturing. The feasibility study is expected to take about 18 months.

Defence Budget

†1428. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in India the defence budget is less than 3 per cent of total budget and it is less than the defence budget of our neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of expenditure incurred on modernization of defence production in the country during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The defence budget for the year 2011-2012 is Rs. 164415.49 crore which is 13.07% of the total expenditure budget of Rs. 1257729 crore of the Union Government for the year 2011-2012. It is difficult to compare the defence expenditure of various countries because of non-availability of detailed data and also because what is included in the defence budget varies from country to country.

(d) Details of expenditure on modernization of defence production during the last five year are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Expenditure
2005-2006	1036.14
2006-2007	931.65
2007-2008	944.95
2008-2009	1370.99
2009-2010	1243.47

Special train for armed forces personnel in North-Eastern region

1429. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.