

**Delay in under water defence preparedness**

200. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that various projects/deals related to India's underwater combat capability are hit by huge delays and cost escalations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure underwater defence preparedness by 2012?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Government constantly reviews the security environment and accordingly decides about induction of appropriate defence equipment/platforms including submarines for the Navy. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernization of Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. To increase underwater defence preparedness, a programme for construction of six submarines is currently underway at M/s. Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) under Project-75. As per the contract, the 1st submarine was scheduled to be delivered in December, 2012 and thereafter, one each every year till December 2017. There has been delay due to initial teething problems, absorption of technology, augmentation of MDL infrastructure and procurement of MDL Purchased Material (MPM). The 1st submarine is now scheduled to be delivered in the second half of 2015. Government has accorded approval for revision in the cost of the Project-75 on account of increase in the cost of MPM items, related subheads and additional MDL infrastructure. Further, a proposal for construction of additional submarines under Project-75 (India) is being progressed.

Any gap in submarine capacity is being addressed by modernization/upgradation with the state-of-the-art weapon and sensor fit on the existing submarines to enhance their combat worthiness.

**New rules to prevent issue of 'No Objection Certificates'**

201. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has instituted new rules to stop station Military Commanders from directly issuing 'No Objection Certificates' to private builders;
- (b) if so, when was the new policy made operational;
- (c) whether these loopholes were earlier pointed out periodically by various people;
- (d) what were the reasons for this belated preventive action by Government;
- (e) how many such 'No Objection Certificates' were issued by BASE Commanders in 2010-11, upto 31 December, 2010; and
- (f) whether any punishment has been given to anyone in 2010-11 for misuse of such discretionary powers, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) It has been decided to review the practice of issuing No Objection Certificates for construction of buildings on lands adjoining Defence lands.

#### **Celebration of Vijay Diwas**

202. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently celebrated Vijay Diwas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the objectives set on the occasion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Raksha Mantri and the three Service Chiefs paid homage at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on 16th December, 2010 on the occasion of Vijay Diwas. Every year, Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 16th December to pay homage to the martyrs and to commemorate the sacrifices made by the Indian Armed Forces in various operations.

#### **New training facility for army**

203. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: