

**Supply of empty gun shells**

† 2378. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a supply order for the supply of 5,000 empty shells for arms and ammunitions had been placed to the T.S. Kisan and Company in the year 1995;

(b) if so, the amount for which this supply order was placed, by when the sample was to be presented in this regard and when it was actually presented;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in July, 2000 Ordnance Factory Board had informed the DDPS that the demand of empty shells has been fulfilled and no further supply will be accepted; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not cancelling the tender by the DDPS and the losses incurred by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Amount of supply order was Rs. 2.77 crores. The advance sample was to be presented in September, 1995, however, it was presented in October 1998.

(c) and (d) Ordnance Factory Board had informed Department of Defence Production (DDP) in July 2000 that their demand for empty shells has been fulfilled. The department on the basis of requirement indicated by the Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) for their proof procedures, decided to accept the supply. Thus, as a result Government did not incur any financial loss.

**Increasing range of Prithvi Ballistic Missile**

2379. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the range of 'Prithvi Ballistic Missile' is being increased from 150 KMs. to 350 KMs.;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.