

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) A contract for acquisition of 15 Fast Interceptor Craft (FICs) was concluded in March, 2010. Three of these FICs have been delivered in May, 2011. Delivery of next three FICs is scheduled in September, 2011. Delivery of remaining FICs is scheduled to be completed by 2012. In addition to this, a proposal for procurement of 80 FICs is being progressed, in accordance with the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).

**Integrated thermally regulated shelters for soldiers by DRDO**

352. SHRI A. ELVARASAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has designed integrated thermally regulated shelters to protect soldiers against extreme climate condition of the Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these shelters are equipped with integrated temperature regulators bio digestors and air-monitoring system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Integrated Thermally Regulated Shelters have been constructed at Leh and handed over to Army. The shelter design is modular and each bay is 900 mm. All the services, like electrical, plumbing and water supply, bio-digesters, kerosene gensets and solar power with inverter and battery bank are well integrated within the shelter. In each shelter, 10 personnel can be accommodated comfortably.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Appointment of CDS for single point military advice**

353. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Empowered Group of Ministers had recommended the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to deliver single-point military advice to Government, in its report over a decade ago;

(b) if so, the progress on the same; and