

Capacity augmentation of Brahmos Aerospace Industrial Unit

3754. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Brahmos Aerospace Industrial Unit at Thiruvananthapuram is functioning normally;
- (b) if so, the total annual turnover for the last three years; and
- (c) whether any capacity augmentation is planned, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Kerala Hitech Industries (Keltec), a State Government unit went through financial crisis and was under BIFR, when BrahMos Aerospace took over the Company in December, 2007. The Company has been revived and is functioning with current year order booking of ` 150 Crore.

(b) The annual turnover of the Company is steadily progressing and has crossed ` 60 Crore in the last three years.

(c) Investment have been made by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Twenty-five High precision machines have been added, and a new Complex is being constructed in the adjacent Air Force land under the aegis of Defence Ministry.

Capacity of Vishakhapatnam naval base to protect coastal area

3755. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any navy base in Vishakhapatnam;
- (b) what is the capacity of this base to protect the coastal area;
- (c) how many ships it has and how much manpower it has, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is sufficient in comparison to the area covered by the naval forces; and
- (e) what steps Government is taking to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Naval Base at Vishakhapatnam houses assets of Indian naval forces positioned for the surveillance and defence of the eastern seaboard of India. The Vizag naval base also houses the Naval Dockyard, Vishakhapatnam and all allied maintenance and administrative support facilities. Indian Navy is fully equipped to meet assessed security challenges. Enhancement of capacity of naval bases is an ongoing process based on threat perceptions, prevailing strategic and security environment etc.