

#### **Closure of Suknna-Mirika State Highway**

†1112. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plan for closure of the State Highway leading from Suknna to Mirika passing through the Army area; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Suknna Mirika Road originates from NH 110 (old NH 55) and goes to Mirika *via* Adalpur. Suknna Adalpur Road passes through the Suknna Military Station having Corps Head Quarter and high density of sensitive military installations. Keeping in view security implications of the Military Station, it was proposed in the Civil Military Liaison Conference on 31st July, 2010 to divert civil traffic to an existing alternate route. However, a decision in the matter rests with the civil administration.

#### **Irregularities in Project Deepak of BRO**

1113. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry, conducted by CVC into the Project Deepak of Border Road Organisation (BRO), revealed shocking instance of manipulation of tenders, cartelization, lack of quality and use of substandard material to maintain and construct the crucial roads in some sensitive border areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the remedial action taken by Government;

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the punishment given to the persons responsible for such a fiasco?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) During inspection of Project Deepak of Border Roads Organisation by the Chief Technical Examiner of Border Roads Development Board, certain irregularities have been brought to light. To ascertain the specific financial and technical irregularities and involvement of officers responsible, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered and the same is in progress.

#### **Purchase of defence related items from US**

1114. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of purchase of defence related items from the United States between 2004-2011;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of purchase of defence related aircrafts, maritime carriers and other accessories from the United States during the said period; and

(c) the total cost involved in these purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including United States of America (USA) in accordance with the defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernization of the Armed Forces to keep them in a State of readiness to meet any eventuality. Contracts have been signed for purchase of various defence equipment including C-130J Transport Aircraft, VVIP Boeing, Harpoon Missiles, Sensor Fused Weapons, C-17 Globemaster-III, INS Jalashwa, P-81 LRMR Aircraft etc. from the USA during the period from 2004 to 2011.

(c) The total value of contracts signed with USA during the period 2004-2011 under Capital acquisition is around Rs. 37,181 crore.

#### **Purchase of 10 C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft**

1115. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had accorded approval to buy 10 C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft for the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total expenditure to be incurred;

(c) the delivery schedule of these aircraft; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the purchase of 10 C-17 Globemaster-III military transport aircraft, will support an estimated 20,000 jobs in the United States as claimed by President Barack Obama?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for procurement of ten C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft alongwith associated equipment was signed on 14th June, 2011.

(b) The cost of the procurement is USD 4,116,080,586.00.

(c) The delivery of these aircraft will commence from June, 2013 and is expected to be completed by June, 2015.

(d) The Government has no information on this aspect.

#### **Naxalites expanding their base in urban areas**

†1116. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.