

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has not organised year Jong birth centenary celebrations in respect of any of the former Presidents.

Inclusion of archaeological sites in West Bengal under heritage zone

2360. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering any proposal to include the archaeological monuments and sites of Murshidabad, Gaur and Pandua and Jagjivanpur in the district of Murshidabad and Malda, respectively, in West Bengal, within the framework of heritage zone or World Heritage Sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Removal of outdated communication equipments

†2361. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many communication equipments being used in Air Force presently were to be removed in 2004 but they have not yet been removed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No obsolete communication equipment is being operated by IAF.

Outdated and high cost production by defence PUs

2362. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Public Procurement has criticised Defence Public Undertakings and ordnance factories for their role in inefficient defence purchases that lead to high costs and outdated technologies;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Committee has also advocated lifting the 26 per cent cap on FDI in private companies meeting the requirements of the defence sector because it acts as a barrier to set up hi-tech production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. M.M. PALLAM RAJU):

(a) No, Sir. The Committee on Public Procurement had observed that "the monopoly status of the DPSEs and OFs leads to the common ills associated with monopolies in any economic activity such as inefficiencies, high costs and outdated technology". Further, it had observed that "DPSEs and OFs are not normally viewed as efficient and economical producers. Their output is, therefore, confined to captive supplies to the Government with little exports or market based sales that would demonstrate their quality, efficiency and economy in a competitive market". Given the fact that no data was publicly available and the above conclusion was based on discussions, the Committee left the matter to the Ministry of Defence.

(b) and (c) On the one hand, the Report of the Committee mentions that not having more than 26% equity participation from foreign producers in the defence sector acts as a barrier to setting up of high tech production units because the foreign producers possessing such technology would not normally be willing to pass on their know-how to another private company in India which they do not control. On the other, a view has been expressed in this Report that even if the FDI cap is enhanced beyond 26%, there would be no certainty regarding transfer of technology to India since such decisions are governed by export control laws and political and strategic considerations of the exporting countries. Considering the different views expressed by Members, the Committee recommended that the Government should create an enabling environment and allow competitive forces to operate and thereby enhance indigenous defence production.

Delay in surveillance satellites for armed forces

2363. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a delay in providing dedicated surveillance and communication satellites to the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) whether there has also been a delay in the launch of the tri-service Aerospace Command for space warfare;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take in this regard, especially as China is far ahead of India in the military exploitation of space?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The satellite requirements of the