

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) All proposals for appointments to key posts in the Armed Forces are examined and approved by the Ministry of Defence or processed for approval of Appointment Committee of Cabinet as per the extant policy. There has been no controversy with regard to these appointments.

Complaint letters received on irregularity in Tatra truck deal

†2847. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been receiving complaint letters from time to time regarding irregularity in the Tatra truck deal;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints letters received by Government in this regard since the year 2008;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government in view of the said complaints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the complaint letters received and action taken by Ministry of Defence regarding irregularity in the Tatra truck deal is given in Statement at Annexure-I.

(a) and (b) A letter dated 5.10.2009 was received from Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare addressed to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri containing complaint letter from Dr. Hanumanthappa, President All Indian Federation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Backward & Minorities Employees Welfare Association dated 26.08.2009 enclosing a complaint from Shri S.N. Ashoka dated 21.08.2009 and dated 1.09.2009. One of the allegations in the complaint related to the status of M/s Tatra Sipox, UK.

A report appeared in *The Hindu* dated 26.03.2012 stating alleged offer of bribe to Army Chief in BEML-Tatra Trucks deal.

(c) and (d) CBI has filed an FIR (RC AC1 2012 A0004) on 30.03.2012 against Shri Ravinder Kumar Rishi, unknown officers of M/s BEML, Ministry of Defence/ Indian Army and M/s Tatra Sipox (UK), in regard to the allegations among others that M/s Tatra Sipox (UK) is not involved in manufacturing of Tatra vehicles and they cannot be termed as Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With regard to the allegation by Army Chief, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been requested to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged report of bribe to the Army Chief. A preliminary Enquiry (PE) has been registered by CBI on 11.4.2012.

**Debarring of firms for their business dealings with
Ordnance Factory Board**

2848. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has debarred large number of firms for their business dealings with Ordnance Factory Board, Department of Defence Production etc. in the recent past;

(b) if so, the name of the companies debarred during 2011 and 2012 so far;

(c) the details of the activities due to which Government have debarred each of such companies during the said period;

(d) the details of the action so far taken against the persons found involved in such activities so far; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 2012, following firms have been debarred by the Ministry from further business dealings for a period of 10 years:

(i) M/s. Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd. (STK).

(ii) M/s. Israel Military Industries Ltd. (IMI).

(iii) M/s. T.S. Kisan & Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi,

(iv) M/s. R.K. Machine Tools Ltd., Ludhiana.

(v) M/s. Rheinmetall Air Defence (RAD), Zurich,

(vi) M/s. Corporation Defence, Russia.

(c) The decision to debar the above firms is based on the detailed inquiry conducted by Ordnance Factory Board on the recommendations of the CBI for blacklisting them which was based on the evidence collected against them for payment of illegal gratification to Shri Sudipta Ghosh former DGOF and others for securing business from Ordnance Factories including release of advance payment.