

(c) and (d) Adequate troops are suitably supplemented by appropriate surveillance and technical intelligence resources to ensure the sanctity of the border.

Requirment of naval warships

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

- (a) what is the costal area in India;
- (b) how many War Ships Indian Navy is having;
- (c) whether these are sufficient to meet the enemy threat to the country, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) how many more warships are required by the country and what is the planning to build these ships; and
- (e) how much money is needed for this purpose and how much money/funds have been allocated so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) India with a coastline of approximately 7516 kms has an exclusive economic Zone covering an area of 2.02 million square kms. Naval assets include Aircraft Carrier, Destroyers, Frigates, Corvetter, Off-Shore Patrol Vessels and Submarines. The Indian Navy has capabilities dictated primarily by threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic environment, emerging technologies and availability of funds. Modernization programme is in accordance with the long term maritime security objectives. Adequate funds are earmarked for acquisition of assets which is an ongoing process.

Purchase of LUHs

198. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Army's long wait to buy light utility helicopters (LUHs) and ultra light field guns appears to end;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to allow a key provision to facilitate the above; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Sir, there is a proposal for procurement of 187 Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs) under design and development project undertaken by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The project was sanctioned by Government of India in February 2009. The project is proceeding as per approved time lines.

The procurement of quantity 145 Ultra Light Field Guns (Ultra Light Howitzers) was initially progressed concurrently as a Single Vendor Case from M/s

ST Kinetics and through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route with Government of United States of America. However, the permission for trials was not granted of M/s ST Kinetics as the Firm is named in an FIR filed by CBI. The matter is presently sub-judice.

The field evaluation of Ultra Light Howitzer comprises three parts, *viz.* user trials, DGQA trials and Maintainability trials. Out of these, user trials of the gun proposed to be procured through US Government have been completed. The performance of the gun can be ascertained only after evaluation of all three trial reports.

Acquisition of defence land

199. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1997, Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE) had the figure of defence land as 22 lakhs acres;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after 14-15 years now this figure has come down to 17.6 lakhs acres while several thousand acres have been acquired during the last fifteen years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) As on 5.3.1997, as per information available then there was 21.52 lakh acres of defence land scattered all over the country. After reconciliation of the records, the defence land holding was found to be 17.31 lakh acres as on 01.12.1999. The discrepancies occurred as land records were in manual forms. Land records have since been computerized and presently the total defence land holdings are 17.54 lakh acres.

Development of Tejas LCA

200. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of development and induction of Tejas Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) what steps are being taken by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. to reduce its manufacturing cost from approximately Rs. 180-200 crore to make its price competitive in international market;

(c) what percentage of total annual budgets of HAL has been apportioned for the development of Tejas in the last 20 years; and

(d) how many squadrons of Tejas does Air Force propose to raise and by when the Ministry proposes to achieve the target goal of raising these squadrons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Initial Operational Clearance-1 (IOC-1) for the Tejas Light