

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 Teajs Light