

Probe in procurement of 12 VVIP helicopters

211. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a probe has been ordered into the procurement of 12 VVIP helicopters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There was a media report stating that the scope of a probe by Italian prosecutors into allegations against unethical dealings by M/s Finmeccanica, Italy has widened to include the Indian contract signed with M/s Agusta Westland for purchase of 12 helicopters. Ministry of Defence asked for a report in the matter from the Indian Embassy in Rome. The report received indicates that Italian magistrate/prosecutors are conducting preliminary investigation about allegations of financial mal-practices occurring within M/s Finmeccanica, Italy and its subsidiaries in general and there is no specific probe being conducted about India related transactions.

Compensation to family of Lt. Sushil Khajuria

212. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lt. Sushil Khajuria has laid down his life while encountering terrorists at Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir on 27 September last year;

(b) if so, the details of the compensation paid to his parents by the Centre, State and the Army;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Khajurias are feeling let down because of the appalling attitude of the authorities; and

(d) if so, what steps the Ministry is taking to reach out to the parents of the brave heart?

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

(b) The details of compensation paid to the mother of Lt. Sushil Khajuria is given in Statement (*see below*)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement***Details of compensation paid to mother of Lt. Sushil Khajuria***

The following benefits have been paid to Smt. Nirmala Khajuria, mother of Lt. Sushil Khajuria:

Sl.No.	Compensation paid	Amount (in Rupees)
(a)	Liberalized dependant pension	20,723/- p.m.

Sl.No.	Compensation paid	Amount (in Rupees)
(b)	Ex-Gratia lump-sum compensation from Central Government	15,00,000
(c)	Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity	2,61,930
(d)	Army Group Insurance death benefits	40,00,000
(e)	Army Officers Benevolent Fund	50,000
(f)	Army Officers Insurance Maturity benefits	41,232
(g)	Army Central Welfare Fund	30,000
(h)	Army Wives Welfare Association Fund	10,000

Violation of Indian air space

213. Dr. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the violation of Indian air space by some countries has been reported in the past few months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action contemplated by Government to check such violations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Since January, 2011, there have been two incidents of violation of Indian air space by aircraft of another country.

(c) All such cases are taken up with the countries concerned through laid down channels as per established procedure.

CAG report on acquisition of artillery guns

214. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its latest report on defence acquisitions criticized the Army and the Ministry for inordinate delay in procuring artillery guns, leaving troops using obsolete varieties of artillery dating back to the 1970s;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have analysed the condition of the artillery in defence; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. The CAG report for the year 2011-12 (Defence Services) has made certain observations that modern technology Artillery Guns could not be made available to Artillery troops for certain reasons as explained in its Report.

(b) and (c) As part of modernization, the Regiment of Artillery has been