

equipment to the Government, appropriate action including that of blacklisting is taken. Recently in March, 2012, this Ministry has decided for imposition of penalties against six firms including debarring them from further business dealing with all the Wings of this Ministry for a period of ten years.

(b) and. (c) None of the six companies has been exempted from this list after being debarred.

Chinese spy vessels in Indian territorial waters

45. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese spy vessels were detected in territorial waters of India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government over such instances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sharp rise in suicide cases in Army

46. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp rise in suicides in the Army;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to leading sociologist of Kashmir University, more than 15,000 soldiers have committed suicide in the last two decades in J and K only;

(c) if so, the details of suicides by soldiers reported from Army so far; and

(d) whether Government have ever tried to find out the reasons and causes of such suicides and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Veracity of information cannot be ascertained for lack of knowledge in respect of source of information.

(c) The details of suicide cases in the Army are as under:-

Year	Total
2003	96
2004	100

Year	Total
2005	77
2006	129
2007	118
2008	123
2009	96
2010	115
2011	102
2012 (upto 31st July)	62

(d) As per studies conducted by Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), the major causes of suicides in army are domestic problems, marital discord, stress and financial problems.

Delay in completion of strategic Air Force projects

†47. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such strategic projects in air force that have not been completed on time;

(b) the action being taken to complete these projects; and

(c) whether, it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its Defence related Report of 2010-11 has held air force responsible for causing inordinate delay in the development of fighter plane squadron?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Capital procurements for the Indian Air Force (IAF) are progressed as per the procedure and broad timelines stipulated in the Defence Procurement Procedure-2011. The standard terms of procurement contracts contain provisions for levy of Liquidated Damages for delays in delivery. There have been delays in some cases which pertain mainly to indigenous Make and Design and Development projects. All projects are monitored at various levels at both Air Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence and appropriate steps are taken to expedite completion of the projects. Audit Para 2, 7;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.