

- * Training of Trainers; and
- * Development of a Model Army Unit.

The programme is likely to be completed by 2017.

Delay in delivery of Admiral Gorshkov

2061. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delivery of aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov has been considerably delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective steps Government is taking to enjoin upon Russians to fix the problem with the ship to avoid further delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The delivery of the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya has been delayed to the last quarter of 2013 as against envisaged delivery schedule of December, 2012. Earlier, the original delivery date/schedule was revised from August 2008 to December 2012. The aircraft carrier was subjected to extensive trials for the first time for 108 days from 8th June 2012 to 23rd September 2012, with a part of the Indian crew on board, undergoing training during the sea trials. While a substantial scope of ship's equipment and aviation trials were completed during this period, the main propulsion plant trials to full power could not be completed due to defects encountered on boiler section. Rectification of the defect is likely to take six months.

(c) The Russian side has been requested to take up necessary measures to ensure delivery of ship in the last quarter of 2013.

Defence exports

2062. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of India's defence exports over the last three years;

(b) whether Government is taking measures to improve research and development in the country to improve India's defence exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to improve private sector involvement in the defence sector by improving licensing and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The total value of defence exports from Defence PSUs and OFB including defence exports from defence companies in the private sector was Rs. 997/- crores during the last three financial years

(b) and (c) Exports by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) consist of products developed through DRDO, through Transfer of Technology (TOT) route from foreign OEMs and through in-house R & D. In addition, OFB and DPSUs carry out in-house R & D to upgrade defence products. There is greater focus now on indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment as per Defence Production Policy.

(d) Since May, 2001, the defence industry sector is open upto 100% for Indian Private Sector participation with FDI permissible upto 26%, subject to licensing.

Failure of BEL to execute MTNL project

2063. SHRI. PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has failed to execute the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) project for billing and customer management even five years after the scheduled date of completion, which led to blocking of Rs. 144/- crore for over four years;

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

(c) whether Government would inquire into the matter and fix responsibility in this regard;