

economic slowdown in developed economies has adversely impacted demand for our exports.

Irregularities in purchase of helicopters

972. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some irregularities were found in the procurement of helicopters from foreign countries recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the response of Government thereto, including action against the guilty;

(c) whether Government considers cancelling those deals made; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Government is aware of reports about alleged wrong doing and unethical conduct by M/s Finmeccanica, parent Company of M/s Agusta Westland, UK in connection with procurement of 12 VVIP/VIP helicopters.

(b) On the report of the arrests of Finmeccanica Chief and Chief Executive of Agusta Westland Spa, Ministry of Defence has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 12th February, 2013 to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

(c) A show cause notice has been issued to M/s Agusta Westland, UK on February 15, 2013 asking them to explain as to why action should not be initiated for cancellation of the Contract.

(d) All capital procurements are processed as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). This procedure is revised periodically so as to ensure highest degree of probity and public accountability, transparency, free competition and impartiality.

Purchase of copter-borne early warning system

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

(a) whether it is proposed to purchase copter-borne early warning system to boost defence aviation wing;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such a system is also proposed to be used to tackle naxal menace in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is proposed to be done under Public Private Partnership; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) At present, there is no case under progress by Indian Air Force to purchase copter-borne early warning systems.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Deferring procurement of 126 fighter planes

†974. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has deferred the procurement of 126 fighter planes for an indefinite period;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study with regard to the effect of the deferment of this procurement on the modernization of Air Force; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Modernization of Army

†975. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working on any plan of modernization of the Army (infantry);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.