

- (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.

(b) whether Government also proposes to increase the combat capacity and mobility of the infantry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of allotted funds for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Modernization of Army including Infantry is a continuous process, based on threat perception, operational necessity, technological changes and available resources. Combat capacity and mobility of Infantry is being upgraded as per the Long Term Perspective Plan (LTPP).

30 Infantry Battalions are proposed to be raised in the Thirteenth Five Year Plan towards enhancing combat capacity.

Mobility of Infantry is proposed to be enhanced through introduction of superior vehicles with better cross country mobility.

(d) The budgetary allocation for capital acquisition for modernization of Army during Financial Year 2012-2013 is Rs. 13724.14 crore.

New auction system for spices

976. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the introduction of new auction system for spices by the Spices Board traders are not interested in actively participating in the auction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of non-participation of traders in the auction spices worth crores are lying in the godowns of Spices Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Spices Board has not introduced new auction system for spices.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.