

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received many recommendations to implement the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations for these employees too; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Recommendations through various forums have been received for implementation of Sixth Pay Commission recommendation in respect of URC employees, however, these recommendations have not been accepted as URC employees are not Government employees.

Holding trials of VVIP helicopter in UK and USA

1762. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) makes it mandatory for all trials of weapons systems should be held in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for holding the trials of VVIP helicopters in 2008 in UK and USA; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strictly follow DPP for all future defence purchase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) does envisage and provide for situations where trial or certain validations of a given equipment need to be conducted abroad.

(c) All capital procurements are undertaken strictly in accordance with the provisions of the DPP.

Dwindling number of FFRs

1763. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army have at present only 66 Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) against 104 FFRs ten years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for dwindling number of FFRs for use by tank regiments, mechanized units, artillery gun batteries and mortar fire parties; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide for adequate number of FFRs to Army to enable our troops to practice skill and keep machinery well tested?

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

(b) Notified FFRs are required to be re-notified from time to time as per their validity by respective State Governments and clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Due to increase in population, spread of habitation and development, encroachments, areas being declared as wild life sanctuary/reserve forests, and environmental pressures, the State Governments are often disinclined to re-notify ranges in their jurisdiction.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made at all levels to ensure timely re-notification of the de-notified ranges. One time Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges as required by the respective State Governments have been paid in case of many ranges to ensure their long term re-notification and continued availability. In addition, efforts are on by the Army to impress upon the respective State Governments and MoEF for re-notification/acquisition of field firing ranges.

CBI inquiry into Tatra truck deal

1764. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has inquired into the Tatra truck deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this deal has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case RC ACI 2012 A0004 on 30.03.2012 in the matter of irregularities in Tatra trucks deal, against one of the owners and unknown officials of a UK based company, unknown officers of a Defence Public Sector Undertakings and unknown officers of Ministry of Defence/Indian Army. The report of CBI is awaited.