

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The request for information (RFI) for Anti Material Rifles and Breaching Munitions was uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Defence on 6th July 2012 and 13th July 2012 respectively with a view to obtain information from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) about the product. The qualitative requirement (QRs) are still being formulated.

Spying activity in armed forces

2506. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any spying activity has come to the notice of Government in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of cases registered during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard, including the number of persons punished or arrested etc.;

(d) whether Government has found out the agencies involved in such spying activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Three cases of alleged spying have been reported during the last three years (2010 to 2013). Three army personnel have been arrested in these cases. Appropriate action has been initiated against the accused as per law and laid down procedure in this regard. The cases are at different stages of trial at Civil/Military courts. Some inimical intelligence agencies have been reported to be allegedly involved in the spying activities. Appropriate measures are concurrently in place to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Deserting helicopter and injured colleagues by air force personnel

2507. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Air Force personnel ran away leaving behind helicopter and their injured colleagues recently during a naxal attack in Chhattisgarh;

- (b) if so, the details of said incidents and those Air Force personnel;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against those Air Force personnel; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) As per initial report an Indian Air force (IAF) helicopter was deployed on 18.1.2013 at about 1615 hrs. at the request of Chhattisgarh Police for casually evacuation from timalwada. While the helicopter was approaching the helipad, it came under heavy fire from Naxalites which caused damage to the helicopter, forcing it to make a landing in a field, approx. 1.6 Km. from the designated helipad towards Chintalgufa. The evacuation party comprised of the Air crew, two IAF Security Personnel and a Police Signaller. Apart from injuries to the IAF security personnel, the Police Signaller was injured in the firing rendering him immobile. Upon landing, the air crew waited for reinforcements from ground forces for some time and as this did not materialize, they moved to Chintalgufa CRPF post for medical aid and reinforcements. The Police Signaller being immobile had to be left behind as carrying him through hostile territory could have endangered his life.

- (c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry is in progress to inquire into the incident.

Shortage of special clothing for soldiers posted in high altitude areas

2508. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of special clothing and equipment for the soldiers deployed in high altitude areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure the adequate and timely supply of these items to the soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no shortage of Special Clothing and Equipment to meet the operational needs of the troops deployed in high altitudes areas. An Empowered Committee is in existence under the Chairman of Master General of Ordnance (MGO) of Army Headquarters