

and usage and are addressed through well established defect investigation mechanism. Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun; Missiles like Trishul and Nag; and INSAS Rifle are some of the examples which did not conform to the standards of the users during developmental phase.

(e) There is a set laid down procedure in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for development of an equipment. DPP does not allow induction of a sub-standard equipment developed by DRDO as every equipment goes through stringent quality control and various type of trials defined by Users. DRDO developed systems are evaluated by the users through various phases of User Trials complying GSQR parameters. Subsequently, each system is put through Maintainability Evaluation Trial (MET), Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) and General Staff (GS) Evaluations. Once the system is cleared by GS Evaluation, it is inducted into Services. Production order to designated Production Agency is released by the User only after trials and evaluations have been successfully completed. Any short-comings noticed after induction are attended by Production Agency. During the production, quality is assured by the DGQA. Wherever the quality issues are related to design aspects, DRDO takes corrective steps. DRDO undertakes product improvement/upgrades as required by the Services. DRDO also provides handholding to Production Agency as well as users through Production Support Group created in the laboratory for post project activities after equipment is inducted into Services.

#### **Production of bigger aircrafts for transportation**

2519. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide bigger aircrafts for transportation in defence;

(b) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) which is mainly producing fighter Aircrafts and helicopters for Air Force will be given the responsibility to produce bigger aircrafts in India; and

(c) whether India is capable of making bigger aircraft and if so why the project has not been started till today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India is jointly developing a Multi-Role Transport Aircraft (MTA), in 15-20 ton payload category, with Russia. For undertaking design, development and production of MTA, a joint venture company *i.e.* 'Multi Role Transport Aircraft Limited (MTAL)', was incorporated with HAL as Indian partner and United Aircraft Corporation-Transport Aircraft (UAC-TA) and Rosoboronexport, jointly, as Russian partners on 1st December, 2010. Preliminary Design Phase (PDP) activities of MTA have commenced on 1st December, 2012.

**Discrepancy in concessions to recipients of gallantry awardees**

2520. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1748 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17 August, 2011 and to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the issue of discrepancy in travel concessions granted to recipients of Medals for Gallantry in the Armed Forces *vis-a-vis* the recipients of the Police Medals for Gallantry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The issue was taken up with Railways and Civil Aviation authorities. However, due to financial constraints Air India has not agreed to the demand for the present. Regarding Railways, the issue is still under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

**Cooperation for maritime safety**

2521. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have signed an agreement on maritime cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has also signed such an agreement with other nations to effect maritime safety in sea waters;