

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of technical parameters, cost effectiveness and economic viability of the guns; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance the fire power of armed forces, especially in mountain regions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government is uthe procurement of 145 Ultra Light Howitzers through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route as per Defene Procurement Procedure.

(c) The Upgradation / modernization of the Artillery is being undertaken as per road map laid down in Artillery Profile 2027, which envisages induction of long range guns and rockets with adequate firepower for the mountain regions.

#### **Mismanagement of defence lands**

\*193 DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of unauthorised use of defence lands for golf, parks, clubs, hotels, etc., poor management of leases and huge variation of records across the country, if so, the facts and details thereof;

(b) whether the various defence authorities have failed to set things right on the land management front; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to fix responsibility on various defence authorities who are mismanaging defence lands?

THE MINISTER Of DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Four Golf courses are runing on defence land leased in terms of the statute and rules for leasing of defence land. Key Location Plan (KLP) authorises open spaces and play field in a military station / cantonment. These open spaces and playfields help in maintaining the ecological balance of the area as well as in training of troops. Many sporting activities including golf are undertaen on these open spaces. Defence land is also used for parks, clubs and institutes for recreational purposes of the defence personnel and residents of cantonment areas. There is also a policy for leasing of defence land in cantonments for Hotel purposes. Details of land used for playing golf, parks, clubs and hotels are not maintained centrally.

So far as Management of leases is concerned about 4200 acres of defence land had been given on lease to private parties under the provisions of the Cantonment Codes 1899 and 1912 and the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1925 and 1937. These leases were given long time back, and the lease rent and premium (wherever applicable) was fixed at that point of time based on the prevalent land value. There are a number of leases which have expired and difficulties have been encountered in their timely renewal on account of absence of renewal application with full documents, violation of lease terms, non-mutation due to disputes etc. Instructions have been issued to either renew the leases in a time bound manner or cancel the same.

DEOs are responsible for maintaining records of all Defence land. Reconciliation of land records held by the DEO and the records of the Military units and that held by State Revenue authorities is a continuous process. Services have been provided a computerised database of Defence land holdings to facilitate reconciliation. In addition a project for survey, demarcation and verification of Defence lands is under implementation which will help settle variations in records held by different authorities.

The total holding of Defence land is 17.57 lakh acres. This land holding is managed by various land users based on Statutes, Rules and Government instructions. In this process the needs of the armed forces and that of the civilian population have to be balanced. Defence land management is therefore a complex exercise. All attempts are made to apply prescribed laws, rules and instructions scrupulously and take action in case of violations and deviations. Policies and instructions are regularly reviewed and updated and new policies are promulgated to remove loopholes and improve land management. Whenever a case of individual negligence or misdemeanour in the matter of land management comes to the notice of the Government, it is investigated departmentally or is got investigated through an independent agency, as the case may be.

#### **Revamping of Doordarshan's DTH Service**

\*194 SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to take steps to infuse a new