

(d) whether Government proposes a dependable mechanism for the same since armed forces are an area where yearly acquisition of large quantity of arms and equipment is necessary?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Whenever any allegation of corruption is noticed, the same is examined by the Ministry and wherever considered necessary, the case is referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for thorough investigations. Indian Armed Forces are governed by their respective Acts, namely, Army Act, Air Force Act and Navy Act. Appropriate provisions are there in these Acts to take action against defence personnel indulging in corrupt practices. Effective vigilance mechanism exists in Armed forces and prompt action is taken whenever any case involving corruption comes to light.

Well defined procedures with adequate checks and balances, are prescribed in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for capital procurement and in Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) for revenue procurement. The existing procedures contain stringent provisions aimed at ensuring higher degree of probity, accountability and transparency.

Acquisition of Rafale aircrafts

3572. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had firmed up plans to acquire the Rafale aircraft from France;
- (b) the original quotation of these planes and the price escalation on this quotation; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in placing the orders of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) M/s Dassault Aviation of France, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of Rafale aircraft, emerged as L-1 bidder for procurement of Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) based on its quotation. Given the complexity of the procurement case, the process of negotiations with M/s Dassault Aviation on various aspects of the commercial proposal and provisions of draft Contract is on.

Army recruitment centre at Gorakhpur, U.P.

†3573. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is only one recruitment centre of the Army in the North East at Varanasi due to which youths from a number of districts including Gorakhpur, find it difficult to participate in the army recruitment;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry would consider to establish an army recruitment centre at Gorakhpur also so that the local youths and those from the nearby districts could get a chance to join the Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Recruitment of Other Ranks (ORs) in Army is carried out through Open Recruitment Rallies conducted by various Army Recruiting Offices (AROs) spread all over the country. Each ARO covers a region or group of districts within a State or across the adjoining States. Efforts are made to cover each district of the country by Recruitment Rallies at least once in a recruitment year by the corresponding ARO, in whose jurisdiction it falls. Location of the Recruitment Centre has no bearing on the recruitment of the candidates belonging to a particular district.

Gorakhpur district in North East Uttar Pradesh (UP) alongwith nearby districts is covered by ARO Varanasi. Candidates from Gorakhpur and nearby districts have the opportunity to participate in the Recruitment Rallies conducted in Gorakhpur and other districts falling in the jurisdiction of ARO, Varanasi.

Presently, there is no proposal to open an Army Recruiting Office at Gorakhpur.

Infiltration along marine borders

3574. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to increase surveillance, vigilance, patrol and mobilization of force on the border areas to check infiltration, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the manner in which Government plans to stop infiltration to the country through sea routes:

(c) whether the Navy is equipped enough to curb the anti-India intentions and designs, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware of the vulnerability of the entire Gulf of Kutch, particularly the sea routes near Sir Creek, Narayan Sarovar, Dwarka, Okha and Bet Dwarka etc. along Gujarat coasts; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to ensure protection of our marine borders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Enhancement of surveillance and patrolling along the coasts is carried in accordance with threat perception and security needs. Review of the coastal security apparatus in the country is a continuous