(i) Chief Secretaries of various State Governments have been requested to constitute Empowered Committees under their chairmanship with Secretaries of concerned departments as members to resolve issues related to land acquisition, wildlife clearance, allotment of quarries etc.

(ii) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has given the General Approval under section 2 of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction/widening of roads entrusted to BRO in the area falling within 100 kilometres aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and for link roads between Border Roads in the area within 100 kilometres aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and National Highways/State Highways/Other roads subject to certain conditions.

(iii) Outsourcing has been allowed to augment capacity of BRO.

(iv) Long Term Roll On Work Plan (LTROWP) and Long Term Equipment Plan (LTEP) has been approved.

(v) Enhanced financial and administrative powers have been given to the executives of BRO.

Purchase of transport planes from the Tata Group

1747. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. of TATA Group has submitted a bid to deliver 56 transport planes for Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what transparent method Government would adopt to purchase transport planes from the TATAs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Delayed projects of DRDO

1748. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of various research projects being conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);