

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has plans to buy 106 Swiss Pilatus PC-7 Basic Trainer Aircrafts (BTA) to train IAF pilots;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard to train more IAF pilots; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to have adequate trained pilots and engineers to manage the air bases all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (e) A comprehensive roadmap for *ab-initio* training in IAF to increase training capacity is already in place. Acquisition of all equipment and aircraft including trainer aircraft is a continuous process and is based on the Services Capital Acquisition Plan (SCAP).

The training is currently conducted on Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II, Kiran Mk-I/A and Hawk Mk-132 aircraft.

Government has entered into a contract with M/s Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, Switzerland to supply 75 PC-7 Mk-II Basic Trainer Aircraft.

Acquisition of mounted gun system for the Army

3357. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared a proposal for 814 mounted gun system for the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Army's Field Artillery Rationalisation Plan formulated in 1999 envisages inducting around 3000 guns of various types to equip its 220 artillery regiments; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that no new gun has been acquired since the 1980, when 400 Bofors guns were bought from Sweden?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Acceptance of Necessity for the procurement of Mounted Gun System for the Army has

been granted. The acquisition plans for the army envisage providing adequate number of guns to equip the artillery regiments. Subsequent to purchase of Bofors guns, Artillery Regiments have been equipped with inductions and up-gradations of different weapon systems.

Building of indigenous submarines

3358. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved of a proposal to build six conventional diesel electric submarines indigenously;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the project has been estimated at ₹ 50,000 crore;
- (c) whether the Council has decided to set up a committee to decide on the names of shipyards to be issued the Request for Proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, the Acceptance of Necessity (AON) cost of the project is ₹ 18798 crore (2005 cost). However, the final cost arises through the bidding / negotiation process.

(c) and (d) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved constitution of a 'Core Committee' to identify suitable Indian shipyards to bid for construction of six submarines.

Expansion of IACCS

3359. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared a proposal worth ₹ 7160 crores for the Air Force to expand the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the IACCS presently has 5 nodes and an additional 4 nodes will be set up to connect the Indian mainland with island regions for seamless communications and connectivity; and