

direction in which the Armed Forces intend to head in terms of capability in future.

- (ii) Preference to 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)' 'Make' categories of acquisition over 'Buy (Global)' category, thereby giving preference to Indian industry in procurement.
- (iii) The procedure for 'Buy and Make (Indian)' category, has been further simplified in order to make the category more attractive for Indian Defence Industry.
- (iv) A clear definition of indigenous content has been provided which would not only bring more clarity on the indigenous content required for difference categorization, but also enhance the indigenization in defence products in India.
- (v) Indian private sector industry has also been allowed to receive Maintenance Transfer of Technology (MToT) in 'Buy (Global)' cases.
- (vi) FDI Policy in Defence sector has been reviewed and as per the new policy, composite foreign investment up to 49% has been allowed through FIPB route and beyond 49% with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- (vii) Defence Products List for the purpose of industrial licensing has been revised and in the revised list most of the components/parts/raw materials have been taken out of the purview of industrial licensing.
- (viii) Defence Exports Strategy has been formulated and put in public domain. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for issuing NOC for export of military stores has been simplified and made online.

Construction status of Pithoragarh-Tavaghat

†201. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Pithoragarh-Tavaghat roadway in Uttarakhand has been completed;

(b) if not, the time when the Border Road Organisation (BRO) was entrusted for construction of this road; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) by when this road-way is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) The Pithoragarh-Tawaghat road was taken over by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) from U.P. State PWD in 1963. The improvement and construction to single lane specifications has been completed. The upgradation work to National Highway Double Lane specification commenced in 2008. Improvement work for double laning between km 0.00 to 16.00 has been completed. The probable date of completion of improvement work for double laning for the entire road (upto 107.60 km) is March 2020.

Deployment of marine commandos for checking infiltration

†202. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether steps have been taken to combat the threats of infiltration and drug trafficking through sea-routes and make the security of the seas foolproof or it has been beefed up;
- (b) whether Government proposes to depute marine commandos in the seas for their security;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the cases of infiltration through sea-routes and drug trafficking have increased during the last two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Surveillance and patrolling along the coasts is carried in accordance with threat perception and security needs. Further, the coastal security apparatus in the country is reviewed from time to time.

(b) and (c) Marine Commandos remain in a high state of readiness for immediate deployment to counter infiltration through sea routes. Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) are maintained round the clock for emergency and anti-infiltration operations.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Nil infiltration has been reported and no seizure of drugs made by Indian Coast Guard during last two years *i.e.* since November 2012.

Indigenisation of defence equipment production

203. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that India is one of the largest defence equipment importers in the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.