

(b) whether China has constructed roads up to Sikkim and other Indian border States;

(c) whether it is a fact that China is trying to provoke India by violating Indian border again and again;

(d) whether it is also a fact that China has created tension in Asia Pacific area also; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to stop wrongful activities of China?

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

(b) China is carrying out infrastructure development including upgradation and construction of roads upto and along Line of Actual Control (LAC).

(c) There is no commonly delineated LAC between India and China. There are areas along the border where India and China have differing perception of LAC. Transgressions occur on account of both sides undertaking patrolling upto their respective perception of the LAC.

(d) and (e) Government has seen reports of incidents involving China and other countries in South China Sea and East China Sea. India has, on several occasions, reiterated its position that it supports the freedom of navigation in international waters including the South China Sea, the rights of passage and unimpeded commerce in accordance with accepted principles of international law and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.

Ordinance Factory Project at Nalanda, Bihar

214. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has stalled the work of setting up of the Ordinance Factory at Nalanda, Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of the project;

(c) the present status of work of the project along with its completion schedule; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for time bound commissioning of all the major plants of the Ordinance Factory Project, Nalanda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project was originally sanctioned by the Government in 2001 to create the production facilities for Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) for 155mm Artillery Gun at Ordnance Factory, Nalanda.

The contract for Transfer of Technology (ToT) of BMCS was signed with M/s Denel (Pty) South Africa by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata on 15th March, 2002. The contract became effective from 15th March, 2003 after successful trial by Army. The ToT documents were received in March, 2003 and subsequently the updated documents were received in April, 2004. However, dealing with M/s Denel was put 'on hold' by OFB, because of its debarment in April, 2005 on account of its alleged indulgence in illegal gratification.

Despite tendering twice, OFB's efforts to get the BMCS plant in place could not materialise since foreign firm M/s IMI, Israel, on whom the contract was placed to supply, erect and commission BMCS Plant as per ToT documents provided by M/s Denel, got debarred, in March, 2012, for a period often years due to breach of Integrity Pact.

After cancelling the contract with M/s IMI, Israel for main BMCS plant, OFB has initiated the procurement action for five individual plants through indigenous sources for manufacture of BMCS.

(c) and (d) Nitroglycerine (NG) Plant, Nitrocellulose (NC) Plant and Sulphuric Acid Concentration / Nitric Acid Concentration (Acid Concentration) Plant have been erected.

BMCS Plant: Consequent to cancellation of contract with M/s IMI, Israel for main BMCS plant, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) initiated the procurement action for five individual plants (NC-NG Paste, Single Base Propellant, Triple Base Propellant, Combustible Cartridge Case and Charge Assembly) through indigenous sources for manufacture of BMCS.

Meetings of Project Management Board (PMB) at the level of the Ministry of Defence and the Steering Committee at the level of OFB are being held at regular intervals to monitor the progress of the project.

As on date, no timeline has been fixed by the Government for completion of construction of this factory because of uncertainties in procurement / fabrication of BMCS plants through indigenous route.