

**Defence procurement deals under investigation**

853. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence procurement deals are being investigated currently, if so, the total number of defence procurement deals being investigated and the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is formulating any such transparent policy on defence procurement which will check defence procurement scams in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) CBI has registered four Regular Cases and three Preliminary Enquiry cases pertaining to defence procurement. Enforcement Directorate has registered one case for investigation.

The capital procurement of defence weapons / equipment is carried out as per the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure – 2013 (DPP-2013) which contains provisions including the signing of Pre-Contract Integrity Pact (PCIP), Standard Clauses in the contract and submission of Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) by the vendor with an aim to ensure highest degree of probity and public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality. As required, Defence Procurement Procedure is amended from time to time.

**Defence organisations under the purview of RTI**

854. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence organisations comes under the purview of RTI Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Supreme Court has issued notices to Government for clarification in this regard, and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Right to Information Act, 2005 is applicable to any authority or body or institution of self-Government established or constituted by or under the Constitution of India; by any other law made by Parliament; by any other law made by State Legislature; by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government and includes (i) any body owned,

controlled or substantially financed; (ii) non-Government Organization substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government. Further, no provisions of the RTI Act shall apply to the intelligence and security organizations specified in the second schedule of the Act, being organizations established by the Central Government or any information furnished by such organizations to that Government provided that the information pertaining to the allegations of corruptions and human rights violations shall not be excluded. Two organizations of the Ministry of Defence namely, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) are placed in the second schedule of the RTI Act, 2005.

(b) As per available information, no notice of Supreme Court regarding applicability of RTI Act on Defence organizations has been received.

#### **Bullet-proof jackets for jawans at LoC**

†855. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite issuing orders for manufacturing bullet-proof jackets for jawans, deployed on the Line of Control (LoC), the decision was changed suddenly and consequently the manufacture of these jackets has suffered an unnecessary delay and the jawans have not yet got these jackets in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any immediate alternative arrangement has been made so that jawans deployed at LoC can be provided bullet-proof jackets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) There has been no change in the decision to provide Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJ) to jawans on Line of Control (LoC). Jawans are provided Bullet Proof Jackets at LoC as per scale of requirement. Bullet Proof Jackets are procured to meet the deficiencies as and when they arise.

#### **Cost escalation and delay in commissioning of naval vessels**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep cost escalation and repeated delays in the construction and commissioning of naval vessels in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.