

budgetary allocation that has been made towards modernization of the IAF has been fully utilized over the past five years.

**Progress of road construction by BRO**

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

- (a) whether the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has to meet the deadline in 2012 for completing of road projects totalling 3500 Kms given in 2006;
- (b) if so, the total length of road constructed by BRO so far;
- (c) the reasons for very slow progress of road construction works given to BRO; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to improve the work ethics in BRO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) 73 roads are identified as strategic Indo-China border roads (ICBR), out of which 61 roads have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with a length of 3410 km which were planned to be completed by 2012.

(b) Out of 61 ICBRs with BRO, 19 roads of length 625 km have been completed and connectivity has been achieved on 24 roads. Of the remaining 18 roads, work is under progress on 16 roads, while works on 2 roads is yet to commence due to pending wildlife clearance (Road Flag Hill-Dokala in Sikkim) and non connectivity to start point (Road Timbu-Mago-Chuna in Arunachal Pradesh). Of a total length of 3409.27 km, 2704.58 km formation and 1983.85 km surfacing works have been completed.

(c) There are certain delays in execution of road projects mainly due to the following reasons:

- (i) Delay in Forest/Wildlife clearance.
- (ii) Hard rock stretches.
- (iii) Limited working season.
- (iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material.
- (v) Due to natural disaster such as flash flood of Leh in 2010, earthquake in Sikkim in 2011 and Jammu and Kashmir flood in 2014, resources are diverted.

- (vi) Delay in land acquisition.
- (d) The following measures has been taken to improve the work ethics in BRO:
  - (i) In order to improve the operational efficiency of BRO and to achieve clarity and accountability, Government of India (Allocation of Business rules 1961) has been amended *vide* notification dated 9th January 2015 to include 'all matters relating to Border Roads Development Board and Border Roads Organisation (BRO)' in the list of business allocated to Ministry of Defence.
  - (ii) E-procurement is being done for ensuring transparency.
  - (iii) The financial powers of ground executive have been enhanced for speedy sanction and execution of works.
  - (iv) In order to introduce the latest art of technology being used by various developed countries the officers of BRO are being sent on training in various foreign countries.
  - (v) Inspection of works on roads is being carried out regularly by executives at Project, Task Force level and by Regional inspection teams to ensure the quality of works.
  - (vi) In case of delay in completion of works Chief Engineer Projects are counseled to show greater diligence in the achievement of laid down targets.

#### **Purchase of Rafale Aircraft**

951. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Rafale aircraft is a less fuel efficient aircraft;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to lack in essential performance characteristic, no country in the world has agreed to buy these aircrafts; and
- (c) if so, the reasons behind buying these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) In a multi-vendor procurement case initiated by the Government to procure 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), the Rafale aircraft met all the performance characteristics stipulated in the Request for Proposal (RFP), during the evaluation conducted by Indian Air Force (IAF). Defence equipment are procured after taking into consideration threat perception, operational requirements etc.