

(b) whether the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in procuring material with proper tendering system have been ignored to favour TATA-Airbus Industries if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A proposal to procure 56 transport aircraft as replacement for the ageing fleet of Avro aircraft through 'Buy & Make' route was accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). Out of these, 40 aircraft will be manufactured in India by the Indian Production Agency (IPA) chosen by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) from the private sector. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to eight global transport aircraft manufacturers on 8th May, 2013. Only a single bid was received in response to the RFP. The DAC constituted an Independent Committee of Experts to look into various issues related to single vendor situation. The report of the Committee was placed before the DAC. After consideration of the report of the Committee and related aspects, DAC, the competent authority under Defence Procurement Procedure, accorded approval proceed with the case with the single bid received from M/s Airbus Defence and Space S.A.

Integration of Indian Systems of medicine in Armed Forces

2448. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army's base hospitals at Delhi, Pune and Jamnagar have Ayurveda Kendras and satellite Ayurveda clinics are functioning at units of Army and Navy at Valsura, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for misleading statement by DGAFMS that Ayurvedic treatment is not approved within the services in an NSG commando case for reimbursement of Ayurvedic treatment expenses; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to integrate Ayurvedic and other Indian Systems of medicine in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) The Army's Base Hospitals at Delhi, Pune and Jamnagar have no Ayurveda Kendras. However, an Ayurvedic practitioner from the Ayurveda University of Jamnagar visits naval hospital at Valsura, Gujarat once a week for one hour. Patients who wish to take consultation on voluntary basis meet the practitioner. There is no Army Hospital at Valsura.

Ayurveda treatment is not approved as a mode of treatment for service personnel. However, the reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by an NSG Commando on

his Ayurvedic treatment from a civil hospital had been allowed by the Government as a special case.

(c) Integration of entire complement of Indian Systems of Medicine with Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) is not feasible, considering the role of AFMS in combat settings for the following reasons :-

- (i) The AFMS are responsible for providing preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative medical care to its clientele. The system is based on the allopathic system of medicine.
- (ii) Combat medical and surgical requirement are the pivot on which structure of AFMS revolves.
- (iii) There are specific requirements to handle the emergencies in modern medicare such as myocardial infarction, arrhythmias, cardiac arrest, intestinal obstruction, head injuries, polytrauma, renal failure etc. which can best be taken care by allopathic physicians and surgeons.

Collaboration with USA for building aircraft carriers

2449. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a proposal to collaborate with the United States of America (USA) for building Light Aircraft Carriers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the manner in which such technological collaboration will help Indian Air Force to compete with military preparedness of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) No, Sir. However, a Joint Working Group has been formed under the auspices of US-India Defence Trade and Technology Initiative framework for possible co-operation in the field of aircraft carrier technologies in the future.

(b) Aircraft Carriers are for Navy. The above mentioned technological collaboration will not aid the Indian Air Force.

Amendment in Benami Act

2450. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to amend the Benami Act; and