

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the relaxation of the Offset Clause requirement in defence equipment procurement and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The offset clauses shall apply to all Capital Acquisitions categorized as "Buy (Global)" or "Buy and Make with Transfer of Technology" where the estimated cost of acquisition is INR 300 crore or more. 30% of estimated cost of the acquisition in 'Buy (Global)' category acquisitions and 30% of the foreign exchange component in 'Buy and Make with ToT' category acquisitions will be the required value of the offset obligations. However, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) may, prescribe varying offset obligations above 30% or waive the offset obligations in special cases.

(b) The key objective of the Defence Offset Policy is to leverage capital acquisitions to develop Indian defence industry by (i) fostering development of internationally competitive enterprises, (ii) augmenting capacity for Research, Design and Development related to defence products and services and (iii) encouraging development of synergistic sector like civil aerospace and internal security.

(c) The necessary changes in the offset guidelines are made time to time based on the requirements and difficulties faced in the implementation of the policy.

Bulletproof jackets for the Army

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

(a) whether Government feels the necessity for bulletproof jackets for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, whether the Army also has requested to provide bulletproof jackets to soldiers;

(c) if so, the date when this request was made;

(d) whether the Army especially the Army personnel deployed at the borders have been provided bulletproof jackets; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when bulletproof jackets will be made available to the Army?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (e) Bulletproof jackets are scaled item. All Army personnel deployed in Counter Terrorism and Counter Insurgency Areas are provided with Bullet Proof Jackets as per policy.

Increasing the number of NCC units in the country

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

- (a) the present number of units of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to increase the number of NCC units in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to expand the Corps' presence in naxal affected areas as well as coastal and border areas and simultaneously encourage youth of such areas to join the mainstream as NCC cadets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Presently, there are 800 National Cadet Corps Units in the country.

(b) National Cadet Corps is currently in the process of raising 5 Group Headquarters and 61 NCC units in five phases. Under the 1st and 2nd phases of implementation, 2 Group Headquarters and 24 NCC units have already been raised.

(c) The following are priority areas for raising of new units in the 3rd, 4th and 5th phases of the NCC expansion plan:

- (i) Coastal areas in the west.
- (ii) Areas affected by Left Wing extremism and insurgency.
- (iii) Areas bordering Pakistan and China.

This would help in extending NCC coverage in the above mentioned areas and encourage youth of such areas to join the mainstream as NCC cadets.

Chinese submarine along Indian Coastline

†58. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China had sent a submarine to Pakistan through Indian coastline in June, 2015;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the main reason therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.