

(c) the impact of high indirect import reliance of DPSUs and OFs on Make in India targets for the Defence sector; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in order to ensure that indirect import reliance is curbed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **New aircrafts for the IAF**

†64. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Pakistani airforce has added 4 squadrons of aircrafts in their defence fleet;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has demanded an increase of three squadrons in its fleet in view of the rising strength of the Pakistani airforce;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) by when Government would take steps to acquire new fighter aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Capacity build-up of Indian Air Force as well as acquisition of new fighter aircraft depends upon the national security/threat perception, strategic objectives and operational requirements of the defence forces and is reviewed by the Government from time to time. This is a continuous process.

#### **Defence agreements with foreign countries**

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

(a) whether any defence agreement valid for ten years has been signed between India and America in June, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to enter into a defence agreement with any other country in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Framework for India-US Defence Relationship was signed on 3rd June,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2015, which builds upon the previous Framework to guide the bilateral defence and strategic partnership for the next ten years. The new Framework provides avenues for high level strategic discussions, continued exchanges between armed forces of both countries and strengthening of defence capabilities.

(c) Decision to enter into defence cooperation agreements with foreign countries is considered on case-to-case basis as and when mutually required.

#### **Attack on Army Convoy in Manipur**

66. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 17 soldiers were killed and 16 wounded as militants attacked an army convoy with IEDs, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy gunfire in Manipur's Chandel district;

(b) if so, whether the incident points to an intelligence failure; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that such type of intelligence failure may not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) An Army vehicle convoy was ambushed by well-armed terrorists in general area Parlon in Chandel District/Manipur on 4th June, 2015. The incident resulted in 18 fatal and 15 non-fatal Army casualties. Two terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire and one AK 47 Rifle was recovered.

(b) and (c) The Indo-Myanmar border is rugged and densely forested. The rugged terrain and prevailing trans-border Free Movement Regime are being exploited by the terrorists due to which monitoring of their cross border movement and activities is extremely challenging.

Army is fully alive to the prevailing complex challenges and accordingly surgical intelligence based Counter Terrorism operations are being conducted to neutralize the terrorists.

The intelligence grid has been revitalised. Efforts have been made for seamless interface amongst all intelligence agencies and units conducting Counter Terrorism operations so as to collate, analyse and disseminate intelligence in a timely manner.