

2. In the current financial year 2015-16, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) has issued 61 Industrial Licenses (ILs) for manufacture of various defence equipment under IDR Act 1951, till December 2015.

Holding of defence exposition in Goa

530. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry of Defence proposes to hold Defence Exposition in Goa this year;
- (b) if so, which part of Goa the same is scheduled to be organised;
- (c) what is the area acquired, taken on lease / licence and the terms and conditions thereof; and
- (d) who owns the land presently and what is the procedure followed for the purpose of getting right over the land and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The venue of Defexpo India 2016 in Goa is at Naqueri, Quitol in Quepem Taluka, South Goa.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not acquired or taken land on lease or licence. Government of Goa has made 150 acres of land available for the purpose of organising Defexpo India 2016. This land is owned by Goa Industrial Development Corporation.

New Ordnance Factories

†531. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government proposes to set-up new ordinance factories in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): Presently, there is no proposal for setting up of a new ordinance factory in the country.

Rafale fighter plane deal with France

†532 SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rafale fighter plane deal with France is on the verge of cancellation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, by when this deal will be struck and number of fighter planes planned to be purchased and total estimated price for that?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) As per the India-France Joint Statement issued by the two countries during the Prime Minister's visit to France, Government of India conveyed to the Government of France that in view of the critical operational necessity for Multirole Combat Aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF), Government of India would like to acquire 36 Rafalejets in fly-away condition as quickly as possible. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian and French Government has also been signed on January 25, 2016 in this regard. Negotiations with the French side are currently on.

Preserving of INS Viraat

533. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposals from a number of States to utilise the oldest serving warship today and India's second aircraft carrier in the fleet-INS Viraat;
- (b) if so, the names of the States which have submitted proposals to preserve the aircraft carrier and the details of the proposals thereof; and
- (c) what will be the parameters on which Government plans to select the best suitable plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) All coastal State Governments have been requested to convey their firm commitment for preserving Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat and converting into "Aircraft Carrier Museum" post decommissioning. Some of these States have responded and requested for further information / clarification.

- (c) The Policy letter on 'Disposal Policy for Ships and Submarines of the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard' states that transfer of ships to State Government is to be effected on 'as is where is' basis. The subsequent liability towards establishing the museum would rest with the concerned State Government.

Non-providing of bullet proof jackets to army personnel

534. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the Army Personnel/ Staff who are entitled to bullet proof jackets have been provided bullet proof jackets, if so, the details thereof;