

Shortage of assault rifles

1156. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of assault rifles in the Indian Army, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what are the reasons for this shortage of rifles for the Indian jawan;
- (c) how has this impacted our national security; and
- (d) by when the Indian Army will be equipped with the rifles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) There is no shortage of in-service rifles in the Indian Army.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Accidents involving Dhruv helicopters

1157. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total accidents involving Dhruv helicopters in India and abroad since 2002 along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Ecuador has cancelled the Dhruv deal with HAL and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Since 2002, 14 military and 2 civil Dhruv helicopters have been involved in accidents, out of which 11 occurred in India and 5 abroad. Out of 16 accidents, 12 occurred due to human error and environmental factors and the remaining 4 occurred due to technical reasons.

(b) As per notice issued by Ecuador Government, 'non-compliance of the seller of some of the obligations contracted by virtue of the present contract' and 'value of the fines exceeding the amount of guarantee of faithful compliance of the contract' have been cited as the reasons.

(c) After the enquiry, based on the specific nature of the recommendations, the required improvements/corrective measures are implemented by the operator, HAL and other OEMs as applicable.