

Achieving self reliance in defence sector

1977. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we need latest technology and inventions to achieve self-reliance in defence sector; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for acquiring advanced technology from foreign countries to make success in 'Make in India' concept during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Defence being a technology and innovation driven sector, latest technology and inventions are crucial to achieve self-reliance in defence sector.

The goal of acquiring advanced technologies from foreign countries is pursued through bilateral arrangements with various countries, industrial policy and Defence Procurement Policy. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has bilateral and multilateral international cooperation with countries such as Russia, Israel, USA, South Korea, Singapore, UK, etc., for the development of strategic, unique, transformative, advanced technology/systems/platforms in alignment with 'Make in India'. Apart from this, in the last two years, Indo-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) and a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation with Japan have been started with a view to promote cooperation in the field of defence equipments and technology.

In order to facilitate collaborations between Indian and foreign companies so as to have technology transfer from foreign to Indian companies, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy for defence has been revised and under the revised policy, foreign investment upto 49% is allowed under automatic route and above 49% under Government route on a case-to-case basis, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern and state-of-the-art technology in the country.

In the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), under 'Buy and Make (Indian)' and 'Buy and Make' categories of capital acquisition, foreign companies and Indian companies are encouraged to work together to produce defence equipment in India as part of Make in India. The objective of these categories of capital acquisition is to encourage technology partnerships between Indian and foreign companies.