

of land for Mahajan Field Firing Range lies with the State Government, information on this aspect is not maintained by the Ministry of Defence.

Shortage of essential articles in the army

1004. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is facing huge shortage of boots, balaclavas, durries, canvas shoes and mosquito nets, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are strict instructions to procure all the above necessary articles for soldiers and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has set any deadline for procurement of the above items and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) The requirement and timelines of essential articles are worked out annually by the Army as part of Annual Provision Review to meet the shortages against the authorized quantities. The procurement of these essential items is a continuous process and is undertaken in accordance with Defence Procurement Manual, 2009.

The procurement of boots, balaclavas, canvas shoes and mosquito nets are done through Ordnance Factories / open tenders. The durries are procured through Association of Corporation and Apex Societies of Handloom (ACASH) / Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). To meet the emergent requirements, Army units have also been authorized to undertake local purchases.

Indo-Malaysia defence cooperation

1005. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have agreed to strengthen their defence cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far; and

(c) whether both the countries have upgraded the joint exercises and set up the SU-30 Forum and steps are being taken more in terms of level and complexity of exercises and collaboration in training and defence equipment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Malaysia in November, 2015, both sides agreed to