

Various provisions under the aforesaid Acts & Rules already impose a ban on Advertising of Tobacco products. Advertisements of Pan Masala containing Tobacco are, therefore, not permitted.

Induction of foreign-made SAMs

*180. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has decided to go for Israeli quick-reaction surface-to-air missile (QR-SAMs) to take on enemy fighters, helicopters and drones after firmly rejecting further induction of the much-touted indigenous Akash missile, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this would affect Make-in-India Policy, especially since the Navy is turning to France for similar requirements after dumping the Akash missiles for its warships due to stabilisation problems, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) A contract for procurement of two Regiments of Akash Weapon system for Army was signed with M/s. BDL in March, 2011. The Akash weapon System falls under the Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) category and the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QR-SAM) is a separate category of missiles. Procurement of QRSAM is a separate multi-vendor case under the Buy (Global) category and vendors from Israel are among the competing firms. The Akash System was not considered for induction by Indian Navy as its current version is not a stabilised system suitable for ship borne usage. As the Akash System evolves through the process of continuous development, its current short-comings are bound to be addressed and the missile has the potential to become India's mainstay in the category of Short Range Surface to Air Missiles. Moreover, the production of Akash has also been ramped up to meet the requirements of the Air Force and the Army. It is relevant to mention here that as soon as the Akash missile was successfully tested the Air Force had dropped its plan to co-develop the missile through import of technology from France.

Capital Procurement of defence equipment is carried out as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). DPP-2016 has been promulgated from 1st April, 2016, which focuses on institutionalizing, streamlining, and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give a boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India, by giving top priority to indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and sub-systems.