

(b) whether Government has got the entire case investigated, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of the road that has been constructed so far and by when the remaining construction work will be completed; and

(d) the details of the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a), (b) and (d) The report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) based on the Performance Audit (PA) carried out on 24 of the total 61 ICBRs entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO), contains observations on the execution of various roads and recommendations for corrective action. The report *inter alia* also refers to earlier findings of the internal inspections of some roads, in respect of which investigations are ongoing.

(c) Out of 61 ICBRs of length of 3417 km entrusted to BRO, 27 ICBRs of length of 963 km have been completed. Work on the balance 34 ICBRs is under progress. The balance 34 ICBRs will be completed in phases by December 2022.

#### **Delay in road constructions by BRO**

1013. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in construction of 73 India-China Border Roads (ICBR);

(b) whether it is a fact that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is facing shortage of road construction equipment and lack of expertise in building roads in mountainous terrains and also limited availability of resources for transporting equipments by air;

(c) if so, details thereof and steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government proposes to give contract to private construction firms instead of BRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) There are delays in execution of some of the 61 ICBRs entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO), mainly due to the following reasons:—

(i) Delay in Forest/Wildlife clearance.

(ii) Hard rock stretches.

- (iii) Limited working season.
- (iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material.
- (v) Delay in land acquisition.
- (vi) Damages due to natural disasters.

(b) and (c) BRO has a long experience in building roads in mountainous terrain. Deficiency of construction equipment in BRO is made good from time to time and has not affected the construction of ICBRs. Indian Air Force is providing necessary air effort for transportation of equipment, as feasible.

(d) With a view to improve the pace of execution of infrastructure projects in the border areas, Government has approved a policy to enable BRO to outsource identified projects to other construction companies, including those in the private sector.

#### **Incursions by Chinese Troops**

1014. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps in regard to the repetitive and reported incursions of our neighbouring country China on borders of Ladakh and the North East;
- (b) if so, details of steps being taken in this regard; and
- (c) what are the actual conditions prevailing on the Line of Actual Control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) There have been no instances of incursions of Chinese troops in Ladakh and the North East. Since there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China, there are areas along the LAC where both sides have differing perception of LAC. Due to both sides undertaking patrolling upto their respective perception of the LAC, transgressions do occur.

Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms such as border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels.