

(e) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution which *inter alia*, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; promotion of public transport network; streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries, etc. Abatement of water pollution requires control of pollution from industry and treatment of municipal sewage. Actions taken in this regard include effluent norms for various industries, besides laying down standards of discharge with respect to sewage treatment plants. Directions have been issued for abatement of water pollution to 66 metros besides towns along Ganga.

Stalling of defence procurements

*147. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several defence procurements have been stalled due to corruption allegations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to deal with the shortage caused, as a result of these deals;

(c) whether Government proposes to clear all pending procurements for the Armed Forces including acquisition of modern equipment, armaments and 98 heavyweight torpedoes for the scorpene submarines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof service-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Capital Acquisition of defence equipment is undertaken as a continuous activity in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) to keep the Armed Forces in a state of preparedness and remaining equipped with modern weapon system. The extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP-2016) incorporates provisions to ensure the highest degree of probity, public accountability, impartiality and transparency in the

procurement process. It envisages signing of an Integrity Pact between Government and bidders for all capital procurement/schemes of ₹20 crore and above, as against the earlier requirement for such a Pact for schemes of over ₹100 crore. It contains provisions to impose sanctions against bidders for any violation of the Integrity Pact, including debarment of the Seller, termination of contract, imposition of penal damages and forfeiture of Bank Guarantee.

The Government has also notified guidelines for penalties in business-dealings with entities, which include levy of financial penalties and suspension / ban on dealings with entities involved in wrong doings. Allegations of corruption are dealt with expeditiously as per provisions of DPP and guidelines on the subject so as to ensure that capital procurements are not held up / stalled for long. Wherever necessary, the cases are referred to the appropriate agency for further investigation.

(c) and (d) DPP-2016 contains provisions for reducing the timelines for completion of procurement activities. Further, Government regularly monitors progress of on-going procurement projects so as to ensure that the Armed Forces are equipped to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges. During the last three years and current year (upto November 2017), 71 contracts have been signed for Army; 82 for Navy and 34 for Air Force, for capital procurement of defence equipment such as radars, missiles, tanks, artillery guns, rifles, micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), ballistic helmets, aircraft, helicopters, frigates, rockets, ships, ammunition and simulators. The capital procurement case of Heavy Weight Torpedoes has been re-initiated after Request for Proposal (RFP) was earlier retracted.

Introduction of double time zone in the country

*148. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Arunachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government to look into the possibility of double time zones in the country keeping in view the difficulties in the single time zone as there is much time difference between Eastern and Western parts of the country;

(b) whether Government is contemplating for introducing double time zone in the country and a study is being conducted under the guidance of the Department of Science and Technology in this direction;