

Bribery in purchase of AN 32 spares

488. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine, defence officials in India have been bribed to the tune of 2.6 million dollars in purchase of spares for military transport aircraft AN-32;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has inquired into the alleged scam and has fixed responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons for protecting corrupt officials and corruption in defence deals and compromising national security by Government; and

(f) whether the matter was taken up with Government of Ukraine to ascertain the authenticity of the said reports and if so, response thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, the Embassy of Ukraine in India has forwarded a request to Government of India from National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine through Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine for legal assistance in investigation of a criminal case filed against officials of one of the State owned enterprise of Ukrainian Government. This is as per the International Treaty between India and Ukraine. This request contains a list of questions to be answered. There are no allegations against officials of this Ministry/Indian Air Force. Government of India has only been requested to render legal assistance.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Recommendations of Shekatkar Committee

489. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved recommendations made by Shekatkar

Committee for redeployment of officers and jawans for combat role by restructuring the service;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether some of the recommendations pertaining to IAF and Navy are still under examination, if so, by when a final decision would be taken; and

(d) the details of steps taken to improve operational capabilities with stress on modern technology in all the three services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The Shekatkar Committee to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure submitted its report in December, 2016. The Report was taken up by the Ministry of Defence to frame key action points and roadmap for implementation. Measures as recommended by the Committee and taken up for implementation include:—

- (i) Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.
- (ii) Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static/Station Workshops in the field Army.
- (iii) Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
- (iv) Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport Units.
- (v) Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.
- (vi) Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- (vii) Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

Full details of the Report and its recommendations are not being placed in the public domain as operational aspects of the armed forces have also been covered, disclosure of which is not in the interest of national security. Improving operational capabilities is a continuous process and requisite measures as required are taken from time to time.