

Corruption cases involving officers of MES and BRO

1302. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of corruption have come to the notice of Government involving officers of Military Engineering Services (MES) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO);

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the action taken against those found guilty of corruption; and

(d) the steps taken to root out corruption from MES and BRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of corruption cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against officials of Military Engineering Services (MES) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for last three years and 2018 till date are as under:—

Year	No. of cases in MES	No. of cases in BRO
2015	01	01
2016	09	01
2017	09	Nil
2018	02	Nil
TOTAL	21	02

(c) A case has been registered by CBI against the accused officers in all 23 cases. The decision of Ministry of Defence for prosecution of the accused Government Servants in competent Criminal Courts has been conveyed to CBI in 16 cases.

(d) In order to ensure transparency, accountability, probity and level playing field, a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs) has been established for MES and BRO for monitoring high value defence contract procurements.

Besides, MES and BRO have established preventive vigilance mechanism under which periodic surprise vigilance checks are carried out as per Standard Operating Procedures. Both the organizations have also implemented e-tendering and e-payment process to root out any complaints of corruption in manual tendering and payments.

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) also examines the contracts and works carried out by MES and BRO through its Chief Technical Examiner. Any shortcomings are brought to the notice of the Ministry of Defence, which are taken to its logical conclusion by effecting changes in the system and procedure to root out any scope for corruption.

Production of defence equipments

†1303. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has to import most of its defence equipments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is preparing any plan of action for making India self-reliant in the field of production of defence equipments, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any plan to involve private sector for large scale production of defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Capital procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on operational requirements of the Armed Forces, the availability or capacity to produce the equipment in India and abroad and to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

During the last three years and current year (upto June, 2018) out of total 168 contracts, 106 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors for procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces such as Helicopters, Radar, Ballistic Helmets, Artillery Guns, Simulators, Missiles, Bullet Proof Jackets, Electronic Fuzes and ammunition.

Government is pursuing initiatives to achieve higher levels of indigenization and self-reliance in the defence sector by harnessing the capabilities of the public and private sector industries in the countries. These measures include according priority and preference to procurement from Indian vendors and liberalization of the licensing regime. DPP accords the highest priority to Buy Indian (Designed, Developed and Manufactured) (IDDM). The 'Make' procedure has been simplified with provisions for earmarking projects not exceeding development cost of ₹ 10 crores (Government

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.