

China border areas is an important pre-requisite for the smooth development of bilateral relations.

Development and production of APCs

181. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has offered India the development and production of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) in a trilateral venture with Israel under the Defence Technology and Trade initiative;

(b) whether the discussion to finalize the deal has been completed; and

(c) if so, what would be the estimated cost of the project and how many vehicles would be produced under the project and by when a final delivery would be made?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of houses for soldiers

182. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for construction of houses for soldiers is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent thereon;

(c) whether such houses are also likely to be built under any such scheme at Vidarbha in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the number of houses to be built under this scheme and the total amount to be spent thereon;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot such houses to ex-servicemen also; and

(f) if so, the number of houses likely to be allotted to ex-servicemen, out of those at Vidarbha or elsewhere in Maharashtra?