

- (xii) Government has set up the Technology Development Fund (TDF) to encourage participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs, through provision of grants, so as to create an eco-system for enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence applications.

(b) to (d) The strengthening of defence-industrial base of the country is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Government periodically based on the requirements, viability, availability of resources etc. Recently, it has been decided to establish two defence industrial corridors to serve as an engine of economic development and growth of defence industrial base in the country. These are spanning across Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and spanning across Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**Allocation for new weapon system and modernization in army**

\*92. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the provision made for new weapon system and modernisation in the budget 2018-19;
- (b) whether this allocation also includes the payments of instalments of earlier arms deals; and
- (c) if so, the actual amount left over for purchase of new weapon system and modernisation for the forces in the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The provision made for the three Services viz Army, Navy (including Jt. Staff) and Air Force in the Budget Estimates 2018-19 for Capital Acquisition (Modernization) under the Defence Services Estimates is ₹74,115.99 crore.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. This allocation includes payments of instalments of earlier procurements. In the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for payment of instalments of earlier procurements (committed liabilities) and new procurements. Based on achievement of milestones in the cases of committed liabilities and progress in approval of new schemes, funds are distributed between committed liabilities and the fresh commitments during the year. In respect of the Indian Army, the allocation under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) in BE 2018-19 is ₹21,338.21 crore. The allocated funds are optimally and fully utilized towards operational requirements. However

depending on the Budget allocation the schemes are reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

**Assistance to handloom weavers**

\*93. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government assists the handloom weavers across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a large concentration of women handloom weavers exist in Manipur, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of assistance provided to them and scheme applicable for improving their socio-economic conditions?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is assisting the handloom weavers across the country under the following schemes:—

1. National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP):

NHDP aims at the development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers through various interventions like cluster programme, marketing assistance, concessional credit etc.

2. Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS):

Under the Scheme, yarns at Mill Gate Price are made available to the handloom weavers. Additionally, in order to facilitate handloom weavers to compete with Powerloom and Mill Sector, 10% price subsidy is provided on cotton, domestic Silk and Woollen hank yarn with quantity restrictions.

3. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme:

This Scheme aims at the integrated and holistic development of mega handloom clusters, having at least 15000 handlooms per cluster, with financial assistance up to ₹ 40.00 crore per cluster by the Government of India.

4. Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata (HSS):

The objective of this scheme is to provide looms/accessories to the weavers