

Indigenous DRDO Defence project

987. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has indigenously built, air-defence and anti-tank missiles, which used to be imported, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its future production plans; and

(c) amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved as a result of this production plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. DRDO has designed and developed indigenous Surface-to-Air missile system AKASH and NAG Missile (3rd generation fire and forget Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM). A project for another ATGM has also been taken up.

(b) In the last two years, five Troops of AKASH were delivered to Indian Army and two Squadrons of AKASH missile systems were delivered to Indian Air Force (IAF). Further, production orders are to be placed by IAF and Army for AKASH missile system. Regarding 'NAG' and 'NAMICA' initial activities related to Production/Transfer of Technology (ToT) documentation and private/public production partners has been initiated.

(c) As a result of successful development production and induction of AKASH missiles system, ₹ 34,500 crore foreign exchange could be saved by existing production order and many orders are in pipeline from Army and IAF. Since, technology of 'NAG' is indigenous and production will be carried out at Indian Production Agencies, no ToT/Technology Acquisition/huge import is involved. Therefore, there will be huge saving of foreign exchange.

Roads constructed along LAC

988. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) length of roads which have been constructed by Government along the LAC per year for the past three years to improve connectivity and accessibility;

(b) number of roads which were commissioned to the BRO;

(c) length of road construction which have been delayed and in which areas and the reasons therefor; and

(d) measures which have been taken to ensure steady supply of essentials like food and ammunition to the troops posted in remote locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The length of roads constructed during past three years along the LAC to improve connectivity and accessibility is as under:—

Year	Length of roads constructed (in km.)
2014-15	70.00
2015-16	72.00
2016-17	53.00

(b) and (c) 73 roads are identified as strategic Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) of length 3812 km., out of which 61 ICBRs have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with a length of 3417.50 km. which were planned to be completed by 2012. Out of the 61 ICBRs, 28 ICBRs of length 981 km. have been completed and work is in progress in the remaining 33 roads. The details of delayed projects State-wise are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Work in progress	
		Nos. of roads	Length (in km.)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	1110.83
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1	56.00
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	894.44
4.	Uttarakhand	11	321.55
6.	Sikkim	2	53.51
TOTAL		33	2436.33

However, connectivity has been achieved in 23 out of these 33 roads.

Certain delays in execution of road projects have occurred mainly due to the following reasons:—

(i) Delay in Forest/Wildlife clearance.

- (ii) Hard rock stretches.
- (iii) Limited working season.
- (iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material.
- (v) Delay in land acquisition.

(d) All measures to ensure timely and smooth supply of essential commodities to the troops in remote locations by appropriate means of transport *i.e.* air, road, animal transport and porters are taken. There are no criticalities of essential commodities in these areas.

Construction of road along the China border

†989. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering construction of roads along the China border;
- (b) if so, whether Government has considered on taking any step in this regard, so far; and
- (c) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) 73 roads are identified as strategic Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs), out of which 61 ICBRs have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with a length of 3417.50 km. The present status of 61 ICBRs State-wise is as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Work completed		Work in progress			
		Nos. of Roads	Length in km.	Nos. of roads	Length in km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	27	1791.96	16	681.13	11	1110.83
2.	Himachal Pradesh	5	115.63	4	59.63	1	56.00
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	1093.14	4	198.70	8	894.44

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.