

(d) details of incidents of accident or technical fault found With ordnances manufactured at Khamaria, along with details of investigation and action taken in last three years; and

(e) the reason why factory continues to manufacture ammunition despite serious evidence of having produced substandard ammunition past leading to accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Multi-tier system of Safety Audit and Quality Audit is already in existence for assuring quality of ammunition and compliance of safety norms in the process of manufacture. In addition to this, for defect noticed at production stage, detailed investigation is carried out by Failure Review Board (FRB), one of the members of which is from Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) whereas in case of defects at customer end, if any, AHSP (Authority Holding Sealed Particulars) carries out defect investigation in association with the concerned Ordnance Factory to find out the exact cause of defect and suggest remedial measures. Further, ammunition store is supplied only after ensuring quality requirements by DGQA as per relevant Specifications, Inspection Schedules, Proof Schedule and carrying out Tests as per Acceptance Test Procedure (ATP).

(c) No, Sir. The accident was not due to sub-standard ammunition. A team of officials from Ordnance Factory Khamaria (OFK) was deputed to Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon from 19.11.2018 to 08.12.2018 for demolition of old/unserviceable/obsolete/rejected ammunition under technical supervision of CAD, Pulgaon. On 20.11.2018, ammunition boxes containing unserviceable ammunition were being unloaded and shifted from the vehicle to the demolition pit. During this shifting, one of the boxes fell down and exploded.

(d) and (e) There is no such incidence of accident due to technical fault of ordnances manufactured at Khamaria in the last three years. As such, demolition of unserviceable/rejected/surplus/obsolete ammunition is a regular practice being undertaken by Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon to dispose of accumulated ammunition which cannot be issued to the Armed Forces.

Purchase of bulletproof jackets for soldiers

†2. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has purchased bulletproof jackets for the soldiers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of bulletproof jackets purchased and the expenditure incurred by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) During 2018-19 a contract for supply of quantity 1,86,138 Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) has been signed with an Indian Vendor.

FDI in defence industries

3. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that defence industries have attracted USD 10,000 (about Rupees Seven Lakh) only as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2017-18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): No, Sir. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of ₹ 8.50 Lakhs (US\$ 13,194) pertaining to the 3 National Industrial Classification (NIC) codes of defence sector has been received in Financial Year 2017-2018. In addition, 6 companies, for which FDI approval had been accorded, received ₹ 61.94 crore in defence and aerospace sector in other NIC codes.

The Government has liberalised Defence Licensing Regime in 2014, thereby reducing the number of items requiring Government approval. Further, the Government has revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in 2016 according to which FDI in defence is allowed under automatic route upto 49 per cent and beyond 49 per cent through Government route whenever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

The information regarding cases not requiring Government approval and the FDI thus received gets clubbed under various NIC codes and is not readily available separately. However, according to industry information, in addition to 6 cases mentioned above, FDI of over ₹ 20 crore has been received under defence and aerospace sector in 12 cases through automatic route in the financial year 2017-2018.

Honey-trapping in armed forces

†4. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of Honey-trap for spying purpose is continuously increasing in armed forces;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any preventive measures in this regard; and

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