

their respective organization to promote self-reliance in defence sector. During the period July to December, 2018, 304 IPRs have been filed and 8838 personnel have been trained for this purpose.

(c) The innovative research undertaken by Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factory Board is helping in indigenization of existing system/platform to bring down import contents thereby resulting in cost savings.

(d) The challenges faced by the Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factory Board in pursuing Intellectual Property Rights in defence sector include lack of awareness and availability of trained manpower besides the need to collectively appraise the challenges ahead with private sector, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and end users. The Intellectual Property Rights Facilitation Cell and Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti have been created to address such challenges being faced by Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factory Board.

Reduction in number of armed forces personnel

7. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a reduction in the number of armed forces personnel;

(b) if so, the number of armed forces personnel reduced in the three wings of armed forces during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for reducing the number of armed forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Report of Shekatkar Committee

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

(a) whether the committee of experts headed by retired Lt. General D.B. Shekatkar, which was appointed to look into certain aspects to enhance combat capability and rebalance expenditure, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces, submitted its report in December, 2016.

The Report was taken up by the Ministry of Defence to frame key action points and roadmap for implementation. Measures as recommended by the Committee and taken up for implementation include:—

- (i) Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.
- (ii) Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static/Station Workshops in the field Army.
- (iii) Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
- (iv) Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport units.
- (v) Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.
- (vi) Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- (vii) Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

A total of 99 recommendations were forwarded for implementation to concerned agencies/stake holders. Full details of the Report and its recommendations are not being placed in the public domain as the Report covers operational aspects of the armed forces, disclosure of which is not in the interest of national security.

Status of payments to HAL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been adversely affected on account of stoppage of due payments of ₹ 15,700 crore by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amount of arrears of payment of other contractors is outstanding and if so, the details thereof; and