

**Modernisation of army equipments**

769. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of the army's equipment in the vintage category, current category and state of the art category respectively and the details thereof;
- (b) whether the allocation in the Defence Budget is sufficient for the modernisation of army equipments;
- (c) whether Make-in-India is being utilised to modernise army's equipment; and
- (d) if so, the status of all defence projects undertaken under the Make-in-India-Initiative during the last three years and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The authorisation and holding of army's equipments is as per operational requirement of the Indian Army. Modernisation of the Armed Forces is a continuous process undertaken to keep the Forces in a state of readiness to meet operational and security challenges. The modernisation projects are progressed as per approval of Services Capital Acquisition Plans and Annual Acquisition Plans in terms of extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). Based on the allocation of funds under Budget Estimates/Supplementary/Revised Estimates, sufficient funds are made available to meet the critical requirements of Services including Army. The allocated funds are optimally and fully utilised towards operational activities.

(c) and (d) DPP-2016 focuses on institutionalizing, streamlining and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, by promoting indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and sub-systems. During the last three years and current year (up to October, 2018), 121 contracts have been signed with the Indian vendors.

**Inter-Governmental agreement between India  
and France on Rafale jets**

770. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an Inter-Governmental agreement was made between India and France for the procurement of 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition from a French company Dassault Aviation;
- (b) if so, the details of the timeline/time-frame when the Services Qualitative Requirements (SQRs) for the procurement of 36 Rafale jets in a fly-away condition were prepared and issued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the timeline/time-frame when the SQRs for the previously agreed upon 126 Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft MMRCAs were prepared and issued?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed on 23rd September, 2016 between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic for the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in fly-away condition, along with an initial consignment of weapons, maintenance support through Performance Based Logistic (PBL), Simulator and associated equipment. The procurement of 36 flyaway Rafale aircraft have been processed on the same Services Qualitative Requirements (SQRs) as finalized for the 126 Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA). The ASQRs for 126 MMRCA case were finalized in June, 2006 and the Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued in August, 2007.

**Disability pension/benefits of soldiers/veterans**

771. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering putting an end to routinely challenging the Armed Forces Tribunal rulings and filing appeals against cases of disability pension /benefits of soldiers/veterans;

(b) if so, the time-line for the same; and

(c) any other steps taken by Government to end filing of appeals against disability pension/benefits to soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Defence do not routinely file Civil Appeals in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the Hon'ble Armed Forces Tribunals (AFTs) rulings. It is only in cases where rulings of Hon'ble AFTs are against the existing Government policies/rules and involve huge financial implications, that Civil Appeals are filed in consultation with Legal Advisor (Defence) and Ministry of Law and Justice.

(c) In cases where Hon'ble Supreme Court has settled the law, no civil appeal is generally filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.