

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) 1. The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework of the Government envisages setting up and managing independent Defence Innovation Hubs (DIHs). These DIHs will serve as platforms where innovators can get information about needs and feedback from the Services directly and create solutions for India's major defence platforms. This structure is also geared towards attracting more innovators to work for the defence sector in India.

2. The Defence Innovation Organisation set up under iDEX has announced setting up of two DIHs in Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore) and Maharashtra (Nashik).

3. The Framework to Fund Defence Innovation Hubs under iDEX, approved by the Board of Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) prescribes the following minimum criterion for setting up Defence Innovation Hubs:

- 3.1 Any Central Government recognized Incubator including but not limited to:
 - 3.1.1 Department of Science and Technology (DST) recognized Incubators.
 - 3.1.2 Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog created Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and Established Incubation Centres (EICs).
 - 3.1.3 Ministry of MSME recognized incubators.
- 3.2 Any other incubator recognized or funded through any Central government scheme.
- 3.3 The incubator located in districts mentioned in the list of SME clusters hosted by the Ministry of MSME in collaboration with UNIDO.
- 3.4 Incubator/Hub promoted by local industry associations.

Recommendations of Shekatkar Committee

776. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the on-going army reform measures recommended by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) D.B. Shekatkar Committee, phased manpower cuts over two to five years involving 57,000 to 1,00,000 soldiers, will save ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 7,000 crore a year in revenue expenditure;

(b) whether under a new concept of manpower restructuring, by forming bulked-up brigades called Integrated Battle Groups will replace division-sized forces; and

(c) whether the World War-II era, Army Postal establishments and Military Farms in peacetime will be shut down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The implementation of certain recommendations made by the Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) D.B. Shekatkar involves redeployment and restructuring of approximately 57,000 posts.

(b) Relevant steps are taken by the Government from time to time to optimise the military structures so as to make our forces lean, versatile and agile and effectively faces the challenges posed to our national security.

(c) As part of the recommendations of the Shekatkar Committee, action has been initiated for closure of 39 Military Farms and restructuring of Army Postal establishments.

Procedure followed for Rafale Jet contract

777. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the price of each Rafale jet;
- (b) the manner in which decision to buy 36 jets was arrived at; and
- (c) the manner in which Indian offset partner was selected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Basic Aircraft price has already been disclosed to the Parliament. The Government has also shared all pricing details with CAG.

(b) The Request For Proposal (RFP) for 126 Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) was withdrawn in June, 2015 due to stalemate in negotiations between Dassault Aviation and HAL. In order to meet the Critical Operational Necessity for fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Government decided to procure 36 Rafale aircraft through Government to Government route to expedite induction of fighters. The procedures as per DPP provisions were followed.

(c) As per Defence Offset Guidelines, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/ Vendor/Tier-I sub-vendor is free to select the Indian Offset Partner (IOP) for implementing the offset obligations provided the Indian Offset Partner (IOP) has not been barred from doing business by the Ministry of Defence.

Delay in building ships, cost escalation affecting Navy's upgradation plans

778. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severe cost overruns and delays have besieged public sector defence shipyards, resulting in a cascading effect on the operational