

Status of Arjun tank

782. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as Arjun battle tank of the Army was rejected due to failure to meet the minimum operational requirements of the Army;

(b) whether certain changes were made for improvements and modifications on the basis of observation during Accelerated Usage cum Reliability Trial (AUCRT) and extended AUCRT of main battle tank, Arjun;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the status of main battle tank, Arjun as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Mk-1 tank has met the operational requirements of the Indian Army. At present MBT Arjun is in-service with the Indian Army. Improvements/upgradation for enhancing operational efficiency of equipment is an on-going process with validation trials.

Clean drinking water supply

783. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched pilot projects for the supply of clean drinking water in villages and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether NITI Aayog has identified some districts for implementation of clean drinking water supply in villages and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all villages in U.P., Haryana and Punjab are likely to be covered under this scheme and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) to (c) This Ministry has launched 'Swajal' programme, a community demand driven, single village, preferably Solar Powered piped water supply schemes in Aspirational districts identified by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog which will help in increasing the outreach of drinking water in underserved rural areas.

The funding pattern of the scheme is 81:09:10 (Centre; State; Gram Panchayat)