

Jackets and Body Armour. The details of defence export authorisations for the last 3 years are as follows:-

| Year    | Value (₹ in crore) |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2016-17 | 1,521              |
| 2017-18 | 4,682              |
| 2018-19 | 10,745             |

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Proposal for corporation of OFB**

814. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) that comprises of 41 factories all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 80,000 defence civilian employees working in the 41 ordnance factories across the country have gone on a 30 days strike against corporatisation of the ordnance factories;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has received any memorandum in this regard from the various Employees Federation of OFB; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to convert Ordnance Factories under the OFB into a 100% Government owned public sector unit to provide functional and financial autonomy and managerial flexibility to OFB so as to enable the organisation to grow at a faster pace and play a greater role in Defence preparedness of the country while also adequately safeguarding the interests of the workers.

(c) and (d) OFB Employees' Federations/Confederation went on strike w.e.f. 20 August, 2019. However, they resumed work w.e.f. 26th August, 2019.

(e) and (f) Various Employees Federations of OFB have represented against the proposed corporatisation and interalia requested that the existing structure of OFB be continued with enhanced delegation of financial powers besides budgetary and workload support.

### **Indigenous production of defence equipment**

†815. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India was at the top globally in terms of import of weapons in the past, but with the speeding up of manufacturing of indigenous defence products under 'Make in India' scheme, import of weapons has come down significantly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India is now in a position to export light combat aircraft to the world; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no authoritative and official information on India being the largest importer of weapons as no country officially reveals information on import of defence equipment. Capital procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes and to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges. Government has taken following policy initiatives to promote indigenization and self-reliance in the defence sector:-

- i. Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) has been revised in 2016 wherein specific provisions have been introduced for stimulating growth of the domestic defence industry.
- ii. A new category of procurement 'Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}' has been introduced in DPP-2016 to promote indigenous design and development of defence equipment. It has been accorded top most priority for procurement of capital equipment. Besides

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.