

**PSUs, participation in construction bid of
LPD class of ships**

1138. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Sector Ship building companies are allowed to take part in the bid for the construction of Landing Platform Dock (LPD) class of ships for the Indian Navy;
- (b) if so, the number of PSUs which have taken part in the bid; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The shortlisting of Shipyards for participation in Landing Platform Dock (LPD) Class of ships for the Indian Navy is based on the technical capability, capacity of the Shipyard and the financial assessment. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd., had submitted bids for LPD Project.

Steps taken to strengthen the army

1139. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of steps taken by Government to strengthen the army and defence of the country during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): During the last five years concerted steps have been initiated by the Government for Modernisation of the Army, leading to its strengthening and capability development. The Make in India initiative and Strategic Partnership Model are important reforms implemented by the Government to provide impetus to capability development by facilitating acquisition of modern weapon systems. Major impetus has been given in upgradation and development of infrastructure along the borders in a holistic and comprehensive manner, including habitat, roads, tunnels, bridges and Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs). The appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the creation of Department of Military Affairs has resulted in far greater synergy with Ministry of Defence and also given the twin objectives of Integration/Jointness within the Services.

New and innovative measures by the Ministry

1140. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: