

(CFVs) along Line of Control in Jammu region since 30 May, 2019 (formation of current Government) till 20 January, 2020. In addition, 177 incidents of cross-border firing along Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu region since 30 May, 2019 till 15 January, 2020.

There have been 08 fatal casualties of Army personnel since 30 May, 2019 so far.

Sufficient budget provisions are made to meet the expenditure.

**Self-certification of defence products by the manufacturers**

32. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a major policy shift, Government has allowed self-certification by the manufacturers of defence products in so far as their quality is concerned;

(b) whether this initiative shall not reduce the role of Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA);

(c) the intent behind such a decision; and

(d) safeguards proposed to protect the interest of Government, in case, any flaw in the quality of defence product is detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) With a view to promote ease of doing business to achieve national vision of 'Make in India', it was decided to institute a mechanism for awarding Self-certification status to private industry with Self-evident Quality system that meets requisite standards. Self-certification is the status awarded to manufacturers to certify through their approved designated functionary, the specific products produced by them through an approved quality system for supply to Defence. Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is nominated as the competent authority for assessment and award of Self-certification. Moreover, the critical activities like Audit of quality system and processes, however, continue to be carried out by Directorate General of Quality Assurance.

(d) During execution of orders under the scheme, any non-conformance in quality and reliability of product performance observed by the user on account of manufacturers' fault, will warrant immediate revocation of the Self-certification status. If, major defects are observed during quality Audit or evaluation of Audit samples carried out by the DGQA, the Self-certification status accorded will be liable to review/cancellation.

**Deaths of soldiers due to avalanches in Siachen glacier**

33. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who lost their lives due to avalanches in Siachen Glacier and other hilly areas, recently;

(b) whether Government has provided assistance to the family members of the deceased and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary steps taken to safeguard against such eventualities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There have been 06 fatal casualties of Army personnel in the year 2019 and no casualties till 24 January, 2020 due to Avalanches/snow slides in Siachen area. In other hilly areas, there have been 11 fatal casualties of Army personnel in the year 2019 and 06 fatal casualties of Army personnel till 24 January, 2020 due to avalanches/snow slides.

(b) The terminal benefits applicable to the Next of Kin of battle Casualties (BCs) have been completely paid for casualties till October, 2019. For Battle Casualties occurred in the months of November and December, 2019, the terminal benefits have been paid partially. For Battle Casualties occurred in the month of January, 2020, the payment process is under progress.

(c) All Personnel inducted into High Altitude regions are provided adequate training in mountain craft, ice craft and survival in glaciated terrain in mountain coping with any eventuality like avalanches. They are also taught to handle medical emergencies. Troops are suitably equipped to undertake the operational challenges and carry out their mandated tasks. The various modern technological equipments