

Purchase of indigenously built weapons

1987. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has asked eight LWE hit States to purchase indigenously built instead of foreign made weapons for their police forces involved in anti-Maoist operations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and present status in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken to replace SLRs and AK-47s currently in use with the purchase of Made in India rifles in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (c) No such instructions have been issued to the States.

However, advanced state-of-the-art indigenously manufactured weapons are available with Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). State Governments procure weapons from OFB according to their requirements. Ministry of Home Affairs *inter-alia* lays special emphasis to facilitate domestic industry.

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has developed a wide range of weapons in the category of Assault Rifle like INSAS, Ghaatak, Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR), etc. which serve as a replacement of SLRs and AK-47s. Further, a joint venture has been setup by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Ministry of Defence in collaboration with Russian firm, for manufacture of AK-203 Assault Rifle in India. These indigenously manufactured rifles can also serve as a replacement of AK-47 in future.

Working hours for policemen

1988. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that average working hours for a policemen in Maharashtra is 12.5-13 hours a day and there are States where the average working hours stretch to 16-17 hours a day, and in emergency situation forces work at a stretch for 18 to 24 hours a day without going home; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) No data for average hours of policemen across the States is maintained centrally.