

- (vi) An innovation ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace titled Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) has been launched in April, 2018.
- (vii) FDI Policy has been revised and FDI is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and upto 100% with Government approvals.
- (viii) Defence Products list requiring Industrial Licences has been rationalised.
- (ix) In March, 2019 Government has notified a Policy for indigenization of components and spares used in Defence Platforms.

Shortage of equipment for soldiers

2420. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) soldiers in Ladakh and Siachen are facing acute shortage of essential snow boots, other high altitude clothing and goggles, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the same; and
- (d) the details of fund allocated, released and utilised for the above items during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The authorisation and holding of essential items including snow boots, other high altitude clothing and goggles, etc. to the soldiers deployed in Ladakh and Siachen is as per operational requirement of the Indian Army. Based on the allocation of funds under Budget Estimates/Supplementary/Revised Estimates, sufficient funds are made available to meet the critical requirements of such items.

Increase in forest cover

2421. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether forest cover in the country has increased during the last two years;