

Chief Secretary Karnataka, comprising Officers from both State Government and Ministry of Defence. Two meetings of Joint Task Force were held on 16.01.2019 and 26.11.2019. The issues related to Defence land are taken up by JTF.

(c) to (e) The Local Military Authority has brought forward the issue related to the ownership of land at Corner House Plot which is claimed by both Ministry of Defence and the State Government. The land at Comer plot has been given by State Govt. to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) for construction of metro project. The work has been stopped after objection by the Army. BMRCL has filed a Writ Petition with respect to Corner House Plot. During the meeting held on 24.12.2019 in Ministry of Defence, BMRCL agreed to withdraw the Writ Petition and take the matter of resolution of the ownership dispute to Joint Task Force. LMA has stated that the matter would be processed after the withdrawal of the said Writ Petition.

Contract with a private company to modernize airfields

820. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has signed a contract with a private company to modernize infrastructure of 37 airfields of Indian Air Force recently, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the airfields modernised under Phase I have been of immense benefit to both military and civilian users, if so the details thereof;

(c) whether this contract will aid in infusing much-needed capital into the market and boost employment generation in fields such as communications, avionics, information technology, if so the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated time by which the said project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract for Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI) Phase-II on 08 May, 2020.

(b) Modernisation of airfield infrastructure has enhanced the capability in terms of facilitating operation in poor weather conditions including night operations, enhanced enroute navigation infrastructure and enhanced traffic handling capabilities. These airfields have been made Joint User Aerodromes (JUAs) *i.e.* they are available for civil operations under UDAN scheme. The enhanced capabilities of IAF airfields due to modernization have benefited both military and civil operations.

(c) The contract would have positive effect on infusing capital into market and boosting employment generation in the fields of Communications, Avionics, Information Technology apart from civil and electrical equipments and construction.

(d) As per the contract, the project is scheduled for completion by 2024.

Status of import of military hardware

821. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is one of the top importers of military hardware globally, if so the reasons therefor;

(b) the quantum of defence equipment imported from different countries during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether Government has formulated Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) to encourage the defence sector, if so the details thereof;

(d) whether the move will reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant, if so the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There is no official information that India is one of the top importers of military hardware globally since no country officially reveals information on their import of defence equipment.

(b) During the last three financial years (2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20), 18, 17 & 32 contracts respectively have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces. The countries from which defence equipment imports are being undertaken include Russia, USA, Israel, France and United Kingdom.

(c) Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) has been launched by Government of India to promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of MSMEs and Start Ups by bridging gaps in defence testing infrastructure in the country. The objective of the scheme is to set up Defence Testing Infrastructure that will provide easy access and meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.