

the criteria are isolated and tested between day 7-10 of exposure. An extensive Information, Education and Communication campaign has been undertaken by the Armed Forces in all stations to sensitize the population in the context of prevention methods, primarily social distancing.

(d) At the outset of the pandemic, supply orders for essential equipment critical to COVID care (Ventilators, Oxygen Concentrators, Multipara Monitors, PPE, Face Masks, Disinfectants Sanitizers, Hand Held Thermal monitors etc) were placed for equipping all hospitals of the Armed Forces. Subsequently, molecular testing machines and test kits were procured and supplied to Armed Forces hospitals. In line with the international and national treatment protocols for COVID-19, Armed Forces hospitals have a wide array of anti-viral drugs (Favipiravir and Remdesivir) and immuno-modulatory agents (Tocilizumab, Prednisolone, etc.). Two hospitals in the Armed Forces are using Plasma Therapy for treatment of severely ill patients.

(e) All Armed Forces hospitals are suitably equipped to deal with COVID-19 patients.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e) above.

#### **Corporatisation of OFB**

828. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken note of the strike by workers of OFB against the proposed corporatisation and their concerns;

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to ensure that the interests/service condition of the employees will not get affected by corporatisation of OFB;

(e) whether it is a fact that OFB products are overpriced when compared with international prices; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Cabinet Committee on Security in its meeting held on

29.07.2020, has approved to convert Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence, into one or more than one 100% Government owned corporate entities, registered under the Companies Act 2013.

The Corporatisation of OFB will improve its autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken note of the Strike notice dated 04.08.2020 from the three recognized Federations of Defence Civilian Employees, proposing to call an indefinite strike *w.e.f.* 06.00 am of 12.10.2020 by the Defence Civilian Employees of Ordnance Factories against the Government move to corporatize OFB.

(d) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence to oversee and guide the entire process of corporatisation of OFB, including transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits.

(e) and (f) OFB products are priced on a cost based methodology without charging any profit over the cost of production for supply to the armed forces. Since OFB is nominated as a production agency for supply of core items to the armed forces, no comparison with international prices can be made.

### **Asiatic lions in Gir**

†829. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of asiatic lions in Gir National Park of Gujarat as on 1st September, 2020;

(b) the number of lions accidentally killed on the railway tracks during the last two financial years; and

(c) the number of resorts that carried out construction and lion sighting work illegally in the restricted area of lion sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per the "Report on Poonam Avlokan (Full Moon Observations) Asiatic Lions in the Asiatic Lion Landscape; June,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.