

Question**Question****ENQUIRIES INTO VARIOUS DEFENCE PURCHASE DEALS**

1444. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the on-going enquiries in the matter of various defence purchase deals;

(b) the progress made so far and the principal agencies engaged in these enquiries;

(c) the dates in each case when the enquiry commenced; and

(d) the dates by which the enquiries are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Two defence purchase deals, relating to the purchase of: (i) 155 mm Howitzer Gun System from M/s Bofors, Sweden; and (ii) S.S.K. Submarines from M/s H.D.W. Germany, are under investigation.

(b) The investigations by CBI in both these cases are being pursued vigorously in India and certain countries abroad.

(c) After preliminary enquiries, the investigations were set in motion on the registration of criminal cases by the CBI as given below:—

(i) Bofors Gun deal, on 22-1-1990.

(ii) H.D.W. Submarines, on 5-3-1990.

(d) Investigations are in progress in India and certain countries abroad. Many complicated legal processes are involved. It will, therefore, not be possible to indicate the dates by which the investigations can be completed.

CONSTRUCTION OF BORDER ROAD IN ASSAM

1445. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of border road at Rangia, Tamulpur, Panery and Rowta in Assam has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing the bridges on Nanai, Kalpani and Daipam rivers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is given below:

Statement

1. The two roads, Rangia—Daranga and Tamulpur—Panery—Udalgiri—Rowta were included in the 1964 BRDB programme for improvement, as roads of operational importance, and the works were entrusted to the Assam PWD for execution. The funds for the improvement works were being allotted from BRDB budget. After the improvements works viz. formation and surfacing, were completed, the roads were being maintained by the Assam PWD from their own funds. However, BRDB continued to fund construction of permanent culverts and permanent bridges from out of its budget.

2. The operational requirement of the above two roads was reviewed by the Army during 1990-91. As these were not found to be of any operational significance, the roads were deleted from the BRDB programme from February, 1991.

3. The bridges mentioned in the Question, viz. Nanai, Kalpani and Daipam, fall on the Tamulpur—Panery—Udalgiri—Rowta road. The Assam PWD took up a case with the BRDB for extension of the existing permanent bridges over Daipam in January 1991. In view of the decision to delete the roads from the BRDB programme, the State Govt was advised, on 26-2-1991, to fund the extension work from their funds.

4. Only the roads which are of operational importance are funded from the BRDB budget. Roads taken up under this scheme, when they cease to be of operational importance, are handed over to the respective State Governments as the development/maintenance of roads is a State subject.

5. The works pertaining to sub-soil investigation for the construction of permanent bridges at Nanai and Kalpani were

Question**Question**

sanctioned in May, 1988. No estimates were received from the State Government for the construction of the bridges. However, as the road has since been deleted from the BRDB programme, the State Government is required to execute the remaining works from their own funds.

[Translation]

VALUE OF RUPEE

1446. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the present value of a rupee in paise, treating 1960 as base year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : The present value of the rupee measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers on base 1960=100 works out to 9.94 paise in May 1991 (latest available).

INCIDENTS OF FIRING ON INDO-PAK BORDER

1447. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of firing between Indian and Pakistani Forces on Indo-Pak border during 1990 and 1991 till date;

(b) the total number of Indian soldiers killed in these incidents; and

(c) the number of Pakistani soldiers killed and arrested ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) There have been a number of firing incidents between Indian and Pakistani Forces on the International Border/Line of Control during 1990 and 1991. There have been casualties on both sides in these firing incidents. It will, however, not be in public interest to disclose further details.

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS IN MAHARASHTRA

1448. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-RAO GUNDEWAR) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regional rural banks in Maharashtra at present district-wise; and

(b) the role played by these banks in the rural economic development of Maharashtra ?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there are 10 Regional Rural Banks functioning in Maharashtra. The districts served by these banks are as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of Regional Rural Bank	Districts covered
1.	Marathwada Gramin Bank	Nanded, Parbhani, Latur, Beed & Osmanabad.
2.	Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank	Aurangabad & Jalna.
3.	Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	Chandrapur & Gadchiroli.
4.	Akola Gramin Bank	Akola
5.	Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg.
6.	Solapur Gramin Bank	Solapur
7.	Bhandara Gramin Bank	Bhandara
8.	Yavatmal Gramin Bank	Yavatmal
9.	Buldhana Gramin Bank	Buldhana
10.	Thane Gramin Bank	Thane