

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:498
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING WEAPONS
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA;VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (A) whether the acquisition of weapon system has been delayed over 20 years;
- (B) if so, the main reasons therefor and the utility of a weapon system acquired after a lapse of 20 years;
- (C) whether the procedure followed in acquiring weapons is faulty in many aspects;
- (D) if so, the reasons for not changing the procedure for a long time;
- (E) whether the setting up of a Procurement Board with the Defence officials has helped;
- (F) if so, the details thereof; and
- (G) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage in armament and equipment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a) & (b): Acquisition of weapon systems is done both through import as well as indigenous development. Delays do, at times, occur in both modes of acquisition. Delays in import are owing to short listing of technologies, availability through desired vendors, obtaining assurances from other

Governments on product support, trial evaluation, and attempts to obtain reasonable prices. Indigenous development is hampered mainly because of inadequate technological base in the country. However, it is ensured that on induction the system meets current requirements.

(c) & (d): Defence procurement is being carried out under the various systems and procedures devised from time to time. They have been improved, based on the experience gained over the years. The Defence Procurement Procedure 1992 followed in the Ministry of Defence has been revised in December, 2002.

(e) & (f): A Defence Procurement Board has been set up in October, 2001. This is an institutional arrangement which functions within the Ministry of Defence having, inter-alia, representatives of the Services and Finance. It oversees all activities relating to acquisition in the capital account. With this institutional change, during the year 2001-2002, 174 contracts valued at Rs. 12,488 crores have been finalised, while during the year 2002-2003, 183 contracts valued at Rs. 34,198 crores have been finalised.

(G) Institutional arrangements have been set up to determine the long term requirements of the Services; the public sector is being modernised and defence equipment production has been opened up for private sector investment. Procurement procedures have been revised to facilitate quicker imports without compromising on technical parameters.