

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1473  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005  
INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT  
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India's needs for military equipment/modernisation is met maximum through imports;
- (b) if so, whether India is still not able to make its own production, designing and development of equipment;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is providing the necessary funds for the above purpose;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of the schemes/plans formulated for indigenous production of such modern military equipment?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (f): As a matter of policy, priority is accorded to sourcing all defence equipment indigenously. Defence items are only imported where the Armed Forces require items of a particular technology and within a defined time frame and they cannot be sourced indigenously. Even when a decision has been taken to import a defence equipment, its indigenous construction under Transfer of Technology is explored. The decisions to 'buy', 'buy and make' or 'make' is taken by a high powered body in the Ministry after a careful planning process that covers the long-term, medium-term and short term perspectives. Defence Shipyards, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories in close coordination with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and other agencies have been able to design and produce a number of defence equipment/items/ warships indigenously.

Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and assist in the development of indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Government efforts range from funding for setting up of various types of facilities to Research & Development (R&D). Amongst the several organizations that the Government have established towards the achievement of this objective are the network of Defence (R&D) laboratories under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).