

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
SUPPLY OF ALUMINIUM CASKETS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently booked some senior Army officers and US based funeral service company for allegedly supplying poor quality aluminium caskets at exorbitant rates after the Kargil war;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the manner in which the caskets were procured from the US based firm have been found most illegal; and
- (d) if so, the time by which investigation in this regard is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): A case of purchase of 500 aluminium caskets and 3000 body bags made in August 1999 was handed over for investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A regular case has been registered by CBI against Major General (Retired) Arun Roye, the then Military Attache, Washington, Colonel S.K. Malik, the then Director in Master General of Ordnance (MGO) Branch in Army Headquarters (AHQ), Colonel F.B. Singh, the then Joint Director in MGO's Branch, AHQ and Mr. Victor Baiza Jr. of M/s Buitron & Baiza Caskets and Funeral Supplies, Texas, USA in connection with cheating and criminal misconduct in purchase of sub-standard aluminium caskets and body bags for the Indian Army. No definite time-frame to complete the investigation can be indicated at this stage.