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title: Need to strengthen the defence preparedness and capability of the armed forces of the country.

**SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU ( SRIKAKULAM )** : Today I wish to raise one issue which holds utmost national importance. The armed forces form the backbone of India keeping the entire nation safe and secure. It is, therefore, greatly important to ensure that they are equipped with the latest possible arms and ammunition that our country can afford to procure. The recent CAG report on this issue is not very encouraging in this regard. The CAG report has revealed some ghastly facts which expose some glaring errors in our defence preparedness and capabilities. Various reasons like complex procurement policies are to be blamed for this mess. The armed forces of this country are facing an impending threat from our surroundings and they also have the added responsibility of dealing with the internal aggression caused by the Maoists. Our current government has taken some bold decisions under the effective leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, in the area of Defence procurement. Make in India is a huge step towards this. Clarity is also being given to procurement policies which is a welcome move. Much is being done but there is a long way to go before we reach the desired state.