

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