

(e) The Government have taken the following steps to reduce the import and increase the indigenous production of newsprint:-

- (i) An additional capacity of 6.55 lakh tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent has been sanctioned since 1989.
- (ii) Under the new Industrial Policy, Newsprint Units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory Industrial licensing subject to locational policy. As a result of this 38 IEMs for a capacity of 19.55 lakh tonnes have filed by the Intending entrepreneurs for the manufacture of newsprint since August, 1991.
- (iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.
- (iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.
- (v) Such paper mills who are producing paper conforming to BIS standards for newsprint, and if their paper is being used by newspapers and its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as Newsprint mills.

Development of Indian Small Arms System

1454. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present position in respect of the development and supply of the Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) for deployment in the Indian Army;

(b) whether long delays in the development of INSAS has forced the Government to import calibre rifles and ammunition;

(c) if so, whether Army's induction plan to re-equip all troops by the year 2000 is not likely to be achieved due to delay in the INSAS development programme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):
(a) The INSAS family, developed incorporating state-of-the-art technologies, comprises 5.56mm calibre rifles, light machine guns and carbines. After successful completion of user and troop trials, the rifle and its ammunition are under bulk production in an ordnance factory and are being supplied to the Army. User trials of the light machine gun have been successfully completed and its troop trials are nearing completion. Parallely, action for its mass production has been initiated. Subsequent to the successful completion of user trials, productionisation of the carbine for troop trials is in progress.

(b) To meet the requirements for counter-insurgency/internal security operations, a contract for procurement of certain numbers of AK-47 rifles has been signed with a foreign country.

(c) and (d). A major proportion of the combatants of the Army will be equipped with the indigenous 5.56 mm rifle by the year 2000. Therefore, no additional steps are envisaged.

B.A.R.C.

1455. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of the optical glass in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the details of the suppliers;

(c) the figure received from suppliers during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, separately; and

(d) the quantity of optical glass received by the BARC against their demand during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The demand for optical glass by the