

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen defence and to prepare for future battlefield scenario the Army is continuously being modernised by updating resources both human and material to keep pace with the changing threat perceptions technologies and geo-political environment. A concerted exercise is undertaken regularly and a prioritised procurement plan drawn for meticulous implementation in order to ensure a high level of operational preparedness within the available resources.

2. The need for procurement of weapon and weapon systems for Armed Forces stems from the threat perception and the consequent need to counter these threats. Based on this various options available to counter the specific threats are considered. A professional assessment for procurement of specific weapon and weapon systems is made keeping in view the performance of the equipment *vis-a-vis* threat perception, its availability, product-support and cost-effectiveness. The professional Directorates in the Services Headquarters and Department of Research and Development are fully associated in the selection process.

[*Translation*]

#### **Construction of Hospital under Labour Welfare Fund**

2415. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central hospital at Bharvelli, district Bakghat, Madhya Pradesh was constructed out of the labour welfare fund;

(b) if so, year in which the amount was spent by the Ministry on the construction of this hospital;

(c) whether the hospital is functioning there regularly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal from the Manganese Ore India Limited to take over the above hospital; and

(f) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount sanctioned for the construction of the hospital was spent at different stages during the period of construction between 1984-88.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government of India have decided, in principle, to transfer the hospital to Manganese Ore India Limited.

#### **Aviation Turbine Fuel**

2416. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of aviation turbine fuel required for operating aircraft is more in India as compared to that in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of difference in the price?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average international price of ATF is about Rs. 5,600/- per Kilolitre whereas in India it is about Rs. 15,000/- per Kilolitre for domestic operations and Rs. 9,600/- per kilolitre for international operators. ATF prices are fixed and administered by the Government.

(c) ATF prices in India for domestic operation are about 2.68 times of international price.

[*English*]

#### **Tourism Counters at I.G.I. Airport**

2417. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that counters meant for providing tourism related facilities at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi are being used illegally by private firms;