

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1064  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001  
PURCHASE OF M.P.V. FROM SOUTH AFRICA  
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to procure a number of Caspir (South African) Mine Protective Vehicles for Indian Army for use in anti insurgency operations in Kashmir and North East;
- (b) if so, the number of such vehicles to be procured alongwith its cost, indicating its prevailing international price;
- (c) whether this vehicle has been in use with Indian Army earlier;
- (d) if so, the time by which such vehicles are with the army;
- (e) the number of mine blast accidents encountered by this vehicles and the number of security personnel killed, maimed or mutilated in such blasts and the number of vehicles destroyed therein; and
- (f) the reasons for procuring more caspir MPVs despite its failure to protect against nine or more blasts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to procure additional Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) for which tenders would be issued to vendors whose MPVs have been trial evaluated.
- (b) AHQ have an estimated requirement of 801 MPVs. Indicative cost of one new MPV is approximately US \$ 1.65,000.00 (Rs. 78 lakhs).
- (c) & (d): 90 refurbished MPVs ex-Vicker/OMC, South Africa are in use since April 1999. 75 more refurbished MPVs have also been contracted with the same vendor and are yet to be received.
- (e) The MPVs have encountered 2 Mine blasts in separate accidents in which 4 Army personnel were killed and 19 injured.
- (f) The MPV is designed to withstand a blast of approximately 15 Kgs of explosives. In one of the accidents referred to above, the casualties which occurred were due to the MPV being hurled 20 ft. in the air due to the blast effect of Improvised Explosive Device (approximately 40 Kgs) and subsequently tumbling downwards resulting in casualties and not due to any splinters penetrating the hull. It is, therefore, incorrect to say that the MPV has failed to protect army personnel against mine blasts.