

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3768
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
PROCUREMENT OF GAMMA RAY BASED CARGO SCANNERS
Singh Dr. Ajit Kumar

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to purchase 5 Nos. Gamma Ray based Cargo Scanners from Rapiscan USA at a price of Rs. 8.22 crores each;
- (b) if so, whether this equipment is available in USA at less than Rs.4 crores each;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to prevent this outflow of extra Government money of value Rs. 20 crores;
- (d) whether Gamma Ray based Cargo scanners are not allowed in many European and Asian countries such as Belgium, Poland, Germany, Japan, Switzerland etc. as they use radioactive material which can be used by terrorists to unleash radiation attacks on the masses which can cause havoc; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for using such risky technology at public places?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Defence proposes to procure quantity 3 to 5 Gamma Ray based Mobile Cargo Search Systems. The contract negotiations with M/s Rapiscan Security Products Inc., USA, which quoted the lowest price, are going on with regard to the price, efficacy, safety, etc., as relevant to the equipment.

(d) & (e): Gamma Ray based Cargo Scanners are presently deployed in a number of countries. One Mobile Gamma Ray system is already in operation at Nhava Sheva Port, Navi Mumbai. Gamma Ray systems use Cobalt 60 as the radioactive source for generation of Gamma rays and need to comply with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) recommendations in vogue and incorporate several safety features to technically qualify for procurement.