

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2733

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

PURCHASE OF HOWITZER GUNS

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Mahant Dr. Charan Das;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to procure towed howitzer guns from foreign firms which are already under scrutiny for certain irregularities/ malpractices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges levelled against the firms;
- (c) the total number of guns to be procured and the expenditure to be incurred thereon including the alternative sources of procurement;
- (d) the number of howitzer guns procured during the last three years alongwith details of price and supplier companies;
- (e) the proposals, if any, to indigenously design and develop light howitzer guns; and
- (f) the time by which the guns are to be inducted and the manner in which it will boost the capabilities of the Army?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): In March, 2008, the Government had issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of towed guns. The name of one of the firms participating in the said procurement case figured among the names of seven firms in the FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in May, 2009 in respect of various supply orders placed by Ordnance Factory Board. The procurement/acquisition cases in pipeline with any of the firms figuring in the said FIR were put on hold until further orders. Later, it was decided that multi-vendor procurement cases, presently held up at various stages of technical evaluation/trials, may be progressed further as per Defence Procurement Procedure-2008. However, no tender will be awarded to the companies mentioned in the FIR unless CBI investigation clears them totally.

(d) to (f): No towed guns/howitzers have been procured during the last three years. The proposal presently being processed includes production of towed guns by Ordnance Factory Board under transfer of technology from the selected vendor. The procurement proceeds as per the provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure 2008. The induction of the equipment, as and when it takes places, will enhance the firepower of the Indian Artillery.