

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
SHORTAGE OF BULLET PROOF JACKETS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the central para-military forces are facing shortage of bullet proof jackets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide high quality bullet proof jackets in a time bound manner;
- (d) whether the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has made any recommendations on light weight and high quality bullet proof jackets;
- (e) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to provide such jackets in a time bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.457 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF BULLET PROOF JACKETS BY SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR AND SHRI GANESH SINGH.

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Force-wise details of shortage of Bullet Proof (BP) Jackets are as under:

Name of the Force Quantityauthorised Quantityheld Shortage

Assam Rifles (AR)	18600	12363	6237
Border Security Force (BSF)	43440	30338	13102
Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	17477	2350	15127
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	109000	68931	40069
Indo- Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	12150	3934	8216
Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	6190	3545	2645
National Security Guard (NSG)	2941	1216	1725
Total	209798	122677	87121

The reason for the shortfall in the BP Jackets is due to the delayed finalisation of the current tender which was initiated in July 2009.

(c) to (f): CRPF had floated a tender for procurement of 59,000 numbers of BP Jackets for Paramilitary Forces and the process is at the final stage. It is expected that the supply order would be issued within this month and supplies would be received in a staggered

manner over the next eight months.

After the tender was floated the technical evaluation of the BP Jackets was taken up by the BPR&D in which the ballistics tests were conducted in the TBRL Chandigarh. Unfortunately when the tests were completed in November 2009 it was found that the integrity of the testing process had been vitiated by the activities of the chief scientist of the TBRL and hence the entire test results were cancelled and the testing process was taken up de novo. In the second stage of testing, strict timelines were drawn and the BPR&D strove to maintain them. It was due to the close monitoring that the BPR&D could complete the testing process by 31-03-2010 and the process of providing necessary approvals and issuance of supply order has been taken up and would be completed before 30-04-2010.

BPR&D in consultation with Central Para Military Forces, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Science, IIT Delhi, AIIMS, TBRL (Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory) had recommended necessary changes in the existing specification of BP Jackets and MHA had accepted the recommendations and the revised specifications notified on 05.05.2009. Based on these specifications the current tender had been floated in July 2009. These specifications correspond to the Level III of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) USA standards.

The Ministry had also recently notified an improved technical specification for the BP Jacket with Full Body Protection (360°) which corresponds to the Level III A of the NIJ standards dated 18-01-2010.

Further the Ministry have requested the BPR&D to develop the specifications for an advanced BP Jacket which would correspond to Level IV of the NIJ standards for protection against armour piercing bullets. The BPR&D has taken up the process of consultation and is expected to complete it within the next three months.