

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:88
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
MODERNISATION OF ARTILLERY
Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of quality arms and equipment, especially gun systems in the army;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to make up the current deficiencies;
- (c) whether the army has also reported technical and operational problems with the existing gun systems;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government had secured the right of Transfer of Technology at the time of purchase of Bofors guns;
- (f) if so, the reasons for not undertaking indigenous manufacturing of these guns; and
- (g) the detailed action plan for upgradation/modernization of the artillery wing of the army?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Arms and equipment including gun systems in the Indian artillery are available in adequate quantity. Modernization of Artillery, which entails replacement of the equipment of older technology, is an on-going process and is being given priority to ensure that the artillery remains equipped with modern weapon systems.

(c) & (d): No significant problems in existing gun systems have been reported. However, the shortages of certain types/components of ammunition as and when reported, have been addressed adequately.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) OFB had received all the technical documents as per the ToT contract. Though further dealing with M/s. AB Bofors was suspended, OFB has been manufacturing the major components of the gun, such as Barrel, Breach Mechanism, Muzzle Break, Loading Trough, Recoil System along with Elevating and Traversing Cylinders, etc. and supplying to the army as spares. OFB has also indigenized the ammunition required for the Bofors Gun and has been supplying to the army on a regular basis.

(g) A long term Action Plan for upgradation/modernization of artillery is underway to cater to the requirements projected, by the Army. In terms of this plan, several major weapon systems are in the process of being procured. Divulging further details in this regard would not be in the national interest.