

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2876

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

ULTRA LIGHT HOWITZER GUNS FOR ARMY

Bhagora Shri Tarachand; Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay; Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane; Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the procurement of Ultra Light Howitzers, M-777 from the BAE Systems of the United States of America which now owns Bofors is based on the artillery profile prepared by the Artillery Directorate of Army and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the procurement is on single source basis and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said gun has failed to meet the requirements of the army at field trials and if so, the reasons for going ahead with the procurement as reported recently;
- (d) whether the field evaluation trial report of the guns was a confidential document; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for leakage of the report and the measures taken to ensure that such reports are not leaked out in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) Madam, Ultra Light Howitzer is amongst the equipment that is included in the Artillery Profile 2027 prepared by the Artillery Directorate of Army.
- (b) The procurement on Single Vendor basis from M/s. ST Kinetics, Singapore is sub-judice. The option of procuring the equipment through US Government (FMS route) is also being pursued.
- (c) The field evaluation of Ultra Light Howitzer comprises three parts, viz. user trials, DGQA trials and Maintainability trials. Out of these, only user trials of the gun proposed to be procured through US Government have been completed. The performance of the gun can be ascertained only after evaluation of all three trial reports.
- (d) Yes, Madam.
- (e) Four pages of draft field trial report were received in an anonymous envelope by the Army Hqrs. An enquiry in the matter is under way. Detailed instructions exist about security of classified documents. Aberrations, if any, are dealt with as per the relevant rules.