

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:844

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

SUBMARINE FLEET OF NAVY

Premdas Shri ;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's submarine fleet has been drastically reduced which has adversely affected the underwater combat capability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has a proposal to induct a number of submarines with foreign collaboration;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including delays, if any, and cost escalation reported therein;
- (e) the time by which the new submarines are likely to be inducted into the fleet; and
- (f) the indigenous efforts being made to construct submarines with latest technologies?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 844 FOR ANSWER ON 19.3.2012

The existing submarine fleet is being constantly upgraded with modern weapons and sensors which has ensured that the underwater combat capacity of the country remains at the desired levels.

Six Scorpene submarines are being constructed under Project-75 at M/s Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai under Transfer of Technology (ToT) from M/s DCNS, France.

Government approval for construction of the six submarines at M/s. MDL under Project-75 was accorded in September, 2005 at a total cost of Rs.18,798 crore. The contract was signed in October, 2005. The Government approval for revision in cost of the project to Rs.23,562 crore was accorded in February, 2010, along with revision in delivery schedule.

The original delivery schedule of the first submarine was December, 2012 and remaining submarines were to be delivered with a gap of one year each. Consequent to the approval of Government for revision in cost and delivery schedule, the delivery schedule of the first submarine has been revised to June, 2015 and that of the last (6th) submarine to September, 2018. The delay in construction of Scorpene submarines is attributable to initial teething problems in absorption of new technology, delay in augmentation of Industrial Infrastructure at MDL and delay in procurement of MPM items by MDL due to their high cost as compared to the earlier indicated cost. Most of the teething problems have been resolved and various plans have been put in place to minimize delays.

As part of the TOT for the six submarines under construction at MDL, Mumbai, a Technical Data Package has been provided by the Collaborator. This will enable attainment of significant indigenous competence in submarine construction, especially in the field of hull fabrication, outfitting, system integration etc. by the end of the programme.