

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
VVIP HELICOPTER DEAL
Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has sought help from the United Kingdom (UK) to investigate allegations of bribe in the controversial helicopter deal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to review anti-graft law as applicable in the UK; and
- (d) if so, the other measures likely to be taken to enforce more stringent anti-graft laws to eliminate middlemen from all Government deals including defence?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Since the reports that had appeared in the media about alleged wrong doing and unethical conduct by M/s Finmeccanica, parent Company of M/s Agusta Westland, UK in connection with the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters also referred to alleged involvement of a middleman who is said to be a British Consultant, and the fact that the contract had been signed with M/s Agusta Westland, UK, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was requested to take up the matter with the Government of UK requesting their cooperation in verifying the allegations and helping us by providing relevant information relating to the alleged involvement of a middleman and / or of any Indian individual/ entity. The UK side informed MEA that they have not launched any investigation and are awaiting the results of the Italian investigation in order to ascertain whether any further action needs to be taken.

(c) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

(d) All Capital procurements are carried out as per procedure laid down in the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). DPP contains provisions of penalties to be imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign, whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, for the award of the contract to the seller. These provisions are in place to check the role of middlemen and ensure the highest degree of probity, public accountability and transparency in defence acquisition cases. Besides this, the Pre-Contract Integrity Pact, signed with the vendor, provides for invocation of contractual provisions in case any wrong doing is established in addition to any action that may be required to be taken under the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code.