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Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of State of the Ministry of Defence laid a statement correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 6398 given on 06 May, 2013 asked by Sarvashri Ramesh Bais, Rudra Madhab Ray and Jeetendra Singh Bundela, MPs regarding 'Howitzer Guns'.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): Madam, on behalf of Shri A.K. Antony, I beg to lay a Statement on the Table of the House.

I had answered the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.6398 relating to Howitzer Guns asked by Shri Ramesh Bais, Shri Rudra Madhab Ray and Shri Jeetendra Singh Bundela on 06.05.2013.

Information was sought in the Question regarding (a) whether the Government proposes to modernize the Howitzer guns with the help of the private sector; (b) if so, the details thereof; and (c) the steps taken by the Government to give priority to indigenous companies working in the defence sector? It was inadvertently mentioned in the reply to (a) & (b) that three Indian vendors, including two private sector companies, have been selected for trials of their equipment. The factual position is that three Indian companies (including two from private sector) and one foreign company were in the running till the TEC stage. However, only two Indian companies and one foreign company reached the trial stage (and not three Indian companies as mentioned in the answer). The third vendor to reach the trial stage was M/s Rosoboronexports, Russia.

The position at the trial stage therefore was that the following three vendors were selected to field their equipment for trials:

- i) M/s L&T in partnership with M/s Samsung Techwin, South Korea.
- ii) M/s BEML, India in partnership with M/s Konstrukt Defence, Slovakia
- iii) M/s Rosoboronexports, Russia.

STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE CORRECTING THE REPLY TO PART (B) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6398 ASKED BY SHRI RAMESH BAIS, SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY AND SHRI JEETENDRA SINGH BUNDELA REGARDING 'HOWITZER GUNS' ON 06.05.2013.

QUESTION	ANSWER ALREADY GIVEN	REVISED ANSWER
SHRI RAMESH BAIS SHRI RUDRA MADHA RAY SHRI JEETENDRA SINGH BUNDELA	RAKSHA MANTRI (AK ANTONY)	
(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize the Howitzer guns with the help of the private sector; (b) if so, the details thereof; and	(a) & (b) : A case for procurement of Qty. 100 x 155 mm/52 Calibre Tracked (Self-propelled) Guns is in progress wherein three Indian vendors, including two private sector companies, have been selected for trails of their equipment.	(a) & (b) : A case for procurement of Qty. 100 x 155 mm/52 Calibre Tracked (Self-propelled) Guns is in progress where three vendors, i.e. two Indian vendors M/s. L&T and BEML and one foreign vendor M/s Rosoboronexports Russia have been selected for trail of their equipment.
(c) the steps taken by the Government to give priority to indigenous companies working the defence sector?	(c) The recent amendments to the DPP-2011 which have been accepted by the Defence Acquisition	(c) No change.

Council aim to give higher preference to indigenous capacity in the Defence Sector.

REASONS FOR DELAY

Reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.6398 was laid on the Table of the House on 06.05.2013. The Lok Sabha was prorogued from 10.05.2013. Subsequently, it has come to notice while the House was not in Session that the reply given against para (a) & (b) of the Question was partially incorrect.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament is commencing on 5th August, 2013. The statement of correcting reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.6398 is being tabled on 1st Question Day allotted to Ministry of Defence.
