

श्री सभापति : प्लीज, बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, it is an important issue. The Home Minister should take note of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. Question No. 121, Mr. Chowdary.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cut in defence budget

*121. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to cut the defence budget for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether cutting of defence budget will affect the modernization of defence forces in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocation in the current financial year has been reduced by ₹ 4,903.77 crore under the Revenue segment and ₹ 10,000.00 crore under Capital in the Revised Estimates 2012-13. This has been done in view of the prevailing fiscal situation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The allocation made for Defence is adequate to sustain the pace of modernization in the current financial year. The Government is continuously monitoring progress of schemes to ensure that defence preparedness is maintained at an optimum level by ensuring prioritization of expenditure within the available funds.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Sir, the hon. Defence Minister confirmed that they have reduced the Budget by Rs. 10,000 crores this year. I would like to ask: What is the rationale behind this? Consequently, for the last three decades, they have been

reducing this. Is it safe? On the other side, our neighbouring country, China, is increasing its Defence Budget by billions and billions.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, due to the current financial situation, the Budget has been reduced. But, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member and the House that due to the reduction, the national security is not being affected. I would also like to quote from the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister, "Constraints will not come in the way of providing any additional requirement for the security of the nation." The hon. Member will appreciate that there has been an increase of Rs.23,000 crores which is 14 per cent over the current RE.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: It was also mentioned earlier that French Rafale fighter aircraft will replace our present fighter aircraft which have become obsolete. What is the status of the procurement of those aircraft?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the question. Please focus on the question.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: To what extent these procurements will be affected by the meager allotment of the budget to the Defence? Earlier, they have projected that they would procure new fighter aircraft with the new budget. Will this budget be sufficient? That is my question.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Acquiring process for the new fighter aircraft is going on. At the moment, the Contract Negotiation Committee is negotiating. Once the exercise by the CNC is over, there will be verification at six or seven places. So, the process is on. It will take some time.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we are very sorry to note that this year there is a reduction in the allocation for the Defence budget. When the situation across the order is worsening day by day, the country should be more sensitive to such issues. When the neighbouring country, Sri Lanka, is using its military against its own people, has enhanced its defence budget by 26 per cent, whereas our country when we are facing so many situations, I am sorry to say that fiscal constraint should not be cited as a reason to compromise on our defence preparedness. On this, the Government should be more sensitive. Will the Government concentrate on improving the enhancement of the budget to the Defence?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Regarding the security situation around us, I fully share the sentiments of the hon. Member. India is facing various challenges. So, security

situation around is very volatile. We have to be watchful 24x7. So, on national security we have to be careful. We have to strengthen our Armed Forces. We have to give them most modern equipment. The Government is aware of that. As my colleague said, there is a budget cut, the Ministry in consultation with the Services, have prioritised the whole thing. We have decided to concentrate on areas where operational necessity is important. We are concentrating on that. So, we will not compromise on the operational efficiency of the Armed Forces, but whichever area requires a little procurement, we will delay only that procurement. In other areas, the most important procurement will take place on time.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, for reducing our actual cost of purchases, we are actually going back by some two or three years because inflation is not taken into account. For controlling the purchases and reduce the expenses, whether the Government will start research and domestic production units to make India to some extent self-sufficient because a lot of commissions or bribes are going out which is ballooning the cost of our defence expenditure. May I know from the Minister whether the Government is taking some steps to modernise the research and production facilities indigenously?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: The Government is conscious of the fact that unless we reduce our dependence on foreign suppliers, not only in the area of corruption, but in times of crisis, it is difficult to get spare parts from vendors. Ultimately, indigenisation is the real solution to safeguard our national security. In the last two or three years, the Government is consciously trying to give a new impetus to the indigenisation. After these latest procedures, we thought that some more amendments are needed in the defence procurement procedures. The Government is in the process of amending the present defence procurement procedures. The main thrust of the new defence procurement will be indigenisation. So, the Government is fully aware of that. The Government will give topmost priority to indigenisation drive.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this cut of Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 crores in Revenue segment and Rs. 10,000 crores in Capital should not be viewed as mere figures. It has a bearing on defence preparedness of the country. This reduction figure actually has to be viewed in terms of the demand of the Defence Ministry. The demand of the Defence Ministry was, at least, Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 crores more. That amount has not been granted. During the last year, this figure has gone down. Then there is inflation factor of 10 per cent. So, this figure of

Rs. 5,000 crores, which has been reduced, must be read as Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, my question is this. When the budget is sanctioned, you have to limit your programme to the sanctioned budget. So, the Department has to cut various programmes or it has to put off some programmes. Which programmes are you postponing? Which expenditures are you cutting?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: That exercise is going on. We will take a final decision in consultation with the Armed Forces.

IPS officers charge-sheeted for criminal activity

*122. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of IPS officers charge-sheeted for criminal activity for the year ending 2012;
- (b) how many of them have been arrested; and
- (c) how many of them have been suspended from service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Details of IPS officers charge-sheeted, arrested and suspended during the year ending 2012, State-wise, are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The IPS officers are allotted to various Cadres and serve in connection with the affairs of the State Governments/UTs. In terms of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if a public servant is accused of any offence alleged to have been committed by him while acting or purporting to act in discharge of his official duty, if he is/was serving in connection with the affairs of a State at the time of commission of the alleged offence, previous sanction of that State Government is required for prosecuting him before a court of law. If the public servant is/was, at the time of commission of the alleged offence, serving in connection with the