

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1720

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019

PROCUREMENT OF ASSAULT RIFLES AND LMGs

1720. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an urgent operational requirement of new generation assault rifles and Light Machine Guns (LMGs) for troops deployed on the borders with Pakistan and China;
- (b) if so, whether the Armed Forces has asked to replace old and obsolete 5.56mm INSAS rifles, 9mm sub-machine carbines, assault rifles and light machine guns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to the proposals and if so, the facts thereof;
- (e) whether there is a proposal to procure new generation assault rifles and light machine guns under Make in India policy and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action so far taken by the Government for procurement of assault rifles and light machine guns and the time by which the procurement process is likely to be completed?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

राष्ट्रिय मंत्री

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

(a) to (f): The weapons in category of Assault Rifle, Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine and Light Machine Gun (LMG) are the basic weapons of

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a soldier. Over a period of time owing to the dynamic nature of warfare, enhanced transparency in battlefield, latest technological advancement and capabilities of adversaries, operational requirements for these Small Arms have undergone a change.

During 2018, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of Assault Rifles, LMGs and CQB carbines through Fast Track Procedure (FTP) under 'Buy-Global' category as well as AoNs for procurement of LMG and CQB carbine under 'Buy & Make (Indian)' category have been accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). AoN has also been accorded for Inter Government Agreement (IGA) with Government of Russia for production of Assault Rifles in India through a joint venture.

The cases are at various stages of procurement.
