

'Graft spiked in defence deals in previous govts'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 14

Union home minister Rajnath Singh has strongly advocated increasing local defence production, saying absence of this under earlier governments was the main reason for substantial increase in corruption in defence deals.

Mr Singh also supported a policy for offering incentives in defence manufacturing saying foreign companies now are not only interested in investing in India but willing to transfer technology as well.

"Earlier, defence production was not promoted the way it should have been. Although governments may have had the intention to do so, they did not succeed. Due to this, instead of competitiveness, corruption spiked in defence orders. You may have come across allegations in the media. This government has taken many steps to increase competitiveness and transparency in this sector," the home minister added.

While speaking at a function organised by Assocham, Mr Singh stressed on the need for "self reliance" as it was important for providing foolproof internal security to the country and underlining the need to reduce dependency on other countries, especially in the defence sector.

"Israeli and Chinese com-



Securing internal and external security of a country cannot be imagined unless it becomes self-reliant. Even if a country is not fully self-reliant, it will have to make sure that its dependence on other nations should be less

— Rajnath Singh,
Home minister

panies seek to come to India and make investment for the purpose of defence production. They are not only ready to make investment and production, but also ready to even transfer technology to India if needed. We should consider giving more incentives in manufacturing in defence sector," Mr Singh said at the event on "defence production".

The home minister claimed India was emerging as a global hub in research and development

2 militants killed in encounters in J&K

Srinagar: Two militants were killed in separate encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. The encounters took place in Anantnag and Baramulla districts. Militants opened fire on a patrol party of Army at Beewra in Srigufwara area of Anantnag district. One militant, identified as Basit Ahmad Dar, was killed in the encounter. In another counter-insurgency operation, a militant — believed to be a foreigner — was killed in Bomai area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said. — PTI

as well, especially in manufacturing and engineering R&D through Make in India initiative.

"As far as the question of purchasing defence equipment is concerned, I can say that decisions to purchase defence equipment are now being taken fast as compared to past and their implementation is also ensured. If we can make "Mangalyaan" in a fraction of cost, then why should we depend on import on other nations," Mr Singh said.

"Securing internal and external security of a country cannot be imagined unless it becomes self-reliant," he added.

Results in defence sector within year, says Parrikar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar today said results of the work done by the ruling NDA combine in the defence sector will start showing in a year.

Parrikar has initiated several steps to invite investors by opening up the defence sector for greater share of foreign direct investment; allowing Indian private sector to participate in more manufacturing; and giving preference to "Make in India" initiative.

Speaking at a seminar organised by an industry chamber, Parrikar said: "I am still clearing up the mess of the previous regime."

He said being self-reliant was the only answer in the long term. The Defence



'Clearing up UPA mess'

“I am still clearing up the mess of the previous regime... We've done certain things. Results will come from next year. Defence procurement has a long gestation period”

Manohar Parrikar, DEFENCE MINISTER

Research and Development Organisation DRDO had been asked to take private industry on board in new projects.

"We've done certain things. Results will come from next year. Defence procurement has a long gesta-

tion period," Parrikar said.

He asked the industry captains to replicate the "success of the automobile sector in defence manufacturing. I am sure it will happen". He refused to answer queries on the selection of new Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

IANS adds: Explaining why the government could not clear defence deals in haste, Parrikar said: "If you don't go through the fine print, we will end up buying 272 fighters without any real transfer of technology. How do you explain that?" India has purchased 272 Su-30 MKI fighters from Russia. The deal was signed in 2000 between the two countries to manufacture 140 aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.



AWARD (CANARA BANK)

It's awarded 4th SME Excellence Award by Assocham, Delhi, presented by Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary, MoS MSME, GOI. Bank's ED P.V.Bharathi received the award on behalf of the Bank.

WPI cools for 3rd consecutive month

New Delhi, Dec. 14: Lower prices of vegetables and some kitchen staples, mainly on account of demand slump post demonetisation, pulled down wholesale inflation to 3.15 per cent in November — the third straight month of decline.

Substantial decline in wholesale prices was witnessed in vegetables (-24.10 per cent), Onion (-51.51 per cent) and oil seeds (-5.05 per cent) last month.

Experts attributed the decline in vegetable prices to cash crunch following the demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1000 notes on November 9 and the inability of Reserve Bank of India to pump in required currency into the system.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, was (-)2.04 per cent in November 2015.

In October this year, it was 3.39 per cent.

Prices of pulses however continued to rule high in the wholesale market at 21.73 per cent last month, as per the commerce ministry data.

Potatoes recorded maximum inflationary pressure at 36.97 per cent. Inflation in fruits rose to 2.45 per cent during the month. Overall, the food

■ **THE FALL** in WPI is in tandem with the expectation which is reflective of the depressive state in the economy owing to the demonetisation, says Assocham

basket showed moderation with inflation at 1.54 per cent in November as against 4.34 per cent in October.

Assocham said the fall in WPI is in tandem with the expectation which is reflective of the depressive state in the economy due to demonetisation.

"Boost to industry is required from both monetary and fiscal policy, i.e. lowering of interest rates by RBI and reduction in tax rates by government in the coming budget to counter the effects of overall slowdown in economy," it said.

ICRA's principal economist Aditi Nayar said however that rising global commodity prices and a waning of the base effect would push up WPI in December.

ICRA further said that the decline in WPI inflation was milder than expected, with few categories displaying any impact of the note ban on wholesale prices.

— PTI

WPI Inflation dips to 3.15% in Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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Industry chamber Assocham said the fall in WPI is in tandem with the expectation which is reflective of the depressive state in the economy owing to the demonetisation.

"Boost to industry is required from both monetary and fiscal policy, i.e. Lowering of interest rates by RBI and reduction in tax rates by Government in the coming budget to counter the effects of overall slowdown in economy," it said.

ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said however that rising global commodity prices and a waning of the base effect would push up WPI in December. The decline in wholesale inflation coincides with a fall in retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index, which hit a two-year low of 3.63 per cent in November.

ICRA further said that the decline in WPI inflation was milder than expected, with few categories displaying any impact of the note ban on wholesale prices.

