

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews performance of OFB and four DPSUs;

Urges them to explore more avenues for indigenisation and exports

Posted On: 24 FEB 2020 6:26PM by PIB Delhi

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the performance of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) here today. The officials of OFB, HAL, BEL, BEML and BDL who gave presentations on their ongoing and future projects to Raksha Mantri and senior officials of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

While expressing satisfaction at the overall achievements of OFB and these DPSUs, Shri Rajnath Singh urged them to strive further to increase their competitiveness in the global market. Lauding the indigenisation efforts, he called upon the officials to identify more ‘Make in India’ avenues and help in making India self-reliant in defence production. Raksha Mantri also urged the officials to explore new modes of business models, focussing on increased defence exports. He expressed hope that the DPSUs will play a pivotal role in making India a global manufacturing hub as well as net exporter.

Headquartered in Kolkata, OFB produces state-of-the-art Battle Field Equipment, ammunitions and other military hardware for the Armed Forces and strives to modernise the production facilities besides training the personnel. With focus on indigenisation, the OFB has filed 246 Intellectual Property Rights applications. Forty-two R&DCentres with specific technological domains have been set up with project-based collaborations with IITs/IISc/NITs. Development of futuristic technologies with Indian private industries through iDex platform is one of the focus areas of OFB.

The HAL has consistently performed well in the last five years on several fronts including operations and finance. The company has achieved operational clearance on seven platforms Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Advanced Light Helicopter -Weapon System Integrated named as Rudra, 19-seater Do-228 civil Aircraft, Jaguar Darin III and the Mirage Upgrade. In last five years, two new platforms commenced on overhauling of Hawk and Su 30 MKI. Till January 2020, the company overhauled 21 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers and 45 Su-30 MKIs. HAL achieved successful integration of BrahMos and Astra missiles on SU-30MKI aircraft enabling the successful test firing.

The BEL has successfully implemented projects of strategic importance such as Weapon Locating Radar for the Indian Army, Akash Missile System, Coastal Surveillance System for the Coast Guard, etc. The company has in the recent past successfully indigenised several products and systems including Akash Missile System (6 Squadrons), Low Level Light Weight Radar (Aslesha), Weapon Locating Radar, Ground Based Mobile Elint System, Central Acquisition Radar (Revathi), Coastal Surveillance System, etc. The company recorded an Export Turnover of USD 21.6 million in 2018-19. The major countries to which BEL exported its products were Switzerland, USA, France, Germany, Israel, Sweden, Finland, Seychelles, Mauritius, Vietnam and SEZs.

The BDL has grown into a multi-product, multi-customer, multi-located enterprise producing defence

equipment meeting international quality standards. The BDL is the lead Integrator of the Akash Weapon System (AWS). It may be noted that Akash has 96 per cent of material sourced from within the country making the project an outstanding example of 'Make in India' initiative. It is also the Production Agency for the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM). The BDL signed contract worth Rs 1,188 crore for supply of Varunastra or the Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. Varunastra has been designed and developed by DRDO and manufactured by BDL. Amogha – III, a third Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile designed and developed by the in-house R&D of BDL with the support of DRDO was launched during Defexpo – 2020.

The BEML through 'Make in India' initiative for the first time has designed & developed biggest eco-friendly Electrical Excavator of 180 tonne capacity, Biggest Electric drive dump trucks of 150 tonne & 190 tonne capacity, which serve as import substitution and help promote the cause of green mining and would save foreign exchange. The 180 tonne Electrical Excavator received Raksha Mantri Excellence Award under Design Effort category. The products designed and developed by BEML include Arjun Armoured Repair & Recovery vehicle (ARRV), biggest ever 850 HP Bulldozer, Stainless Steel Electric Multiple Unit, Metro Cars for Bangalore & Kolkata Metro Corporation, Self-Propelled eight-wheeler Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DETC) and unattended Train Operation (UTO) Metro cars for Mumbai Metro.

The BEML gave major thrust to self-reliance and achieved indigenisation levels of over 90 per cent in the mainline mining and construction products, Rail Coaches & EMUs, over 80 per cent in High Mobility Vehicles (HMV) and over 65 per cent in Metro cars. BEML is also working towards 'ZERO IMPORT' policy of Government to reach higher levels of indigenisation.

ABB/SS/Nampi/KA/DK/Savvy/MTJ/ADA

(Release ID: 1604218)