

■ ₹1,70,000cr turnover expected by 2025

# Centre to unveil 2018 defence policy in Aug.

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Next month the government is expected to unveil a key defence production policy (DPP 2018) that would lay out a roadmap for a robust defence production industry with the aim of making India one of the top five manufacturers of military equipment and platforms in the next 10 years.

DPP 2018 will aim at indigenously developing major platforms that had been imported since in the last six decades. This critical technology for manufacturing state-of-the-art military platforms in 12 areas include fighter aircraft, medium lift and utility helicopters, warships, land combat vehicles, missile systems, gun systems, small arms, ammunition and explosives, surveillance systems, electronic warfare (EW) systems and night fighting enablers.

Official sources told new agencies that final touch-

▶ **DPP 2018 will aim at indigenously developing major platforms that had been imported since the last six decades**

▶ **Export of ₹35,000 crore in military equipment and services by 2025 is expected, according to the draft policy released in March**

es are being given to the policy before it is being placed before the Union Cabinet for approval.

According to the draft policy, the government is already looking at achieving a turnover of ₹1,70,000 crore in military goods and services by 2025.

India has been the largest importer of military hardware in the world in the last five years and Indian imports of major weapons rose by 111 per cent in the last five

years compared to 2004-08.

According to official figure, India inked 187 contracts worth Rs 2.40 lakh crore with foreign and domestic firms for various military equipment and weapons in the last four years. However, majority of the projects are yet to take off due to procedural delays.

Officials said the DPP is also likely to simplify the procurement process by cutting several layers of approval which often cause delays. They said the policy aims to make India one of the top five manufacturers of defence platforms with active participation of public and private sectors.

The draft policy released in March listed as major objective export of ₹35,000 crore in military equipment and services by 2025.

The draft policy says the licensing process for defence industries will be liberalised and the list of items requiring licences will be reviewed and pruned.