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Q8

Case study. The Chairman of Bharat Missiles Ltd (BML) was watching a program on TV wherein the Prime Minister was addressing the nation on the necessity of developing a self-reliant India. He subconsciously nodded in agreement and smiled to himself as he mentally reviewed BML's journey in the past two decades. BML had admirably progressed from producing first generation anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMS) to designing and producing state of the art ATGM weapon systems that would be the envy of any army. He sighed in reconciliation with his assumptions that the government would probably not alter the status quo of a ban on export of military weaponry. To his surprise, the very next day he got a telephone call from the Director General, Ministry of Defence, asking him to discuss the modalities of increasing BML production of ATGMS as there is a possibility of exporting the same to a friendly foreign country. The Director General wanted the Chairman to discuss the details with his staff at Delhi next week. Two days later, at a press conference, the Defence Minister stated that he aims to double the current weapons export levels within five years. This would give an impetus to financing the development and manufacture of indigenous weapons in the country. He also stated that all indigenous arms manufacturing nations have a very good record of international arms trade. As Chairman of BML, what are your views on the following points? (a) As an arms exporter of a responsible nation like India, what are the ethical issues involved in arms trade? (b) List five ethical factors that would influence the decision to sell arms to foreign governments.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Missile Technology Control Regime

India joined in 2016; it is a political-export-control grouping aimed at limiting missile proliferation, relevant to ATGM and related technology.

UN arms embargoes

Security Council embargoes bind member States; national licensing cannot ethically or legally 'friend-wash' a listed destination.

Arms Trade Treaty

India is not a party; its human-rights and diversion criteria are still a useful ethical checklist for a responsible exporter.

Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005

Domestic criminal frame against unlawful WMD and delivery-system activity; export diligence sits in that spirit.

International humanitarian law

Sellers who can foresee indiscriminate use share a moral causal link; IHL duties of distinction bind the user and inform the export licence.

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