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Shashi Kant Sharma, India's government auditor tasked with supervising government spending, lambasted the Indian Army in July for procuring Combat Net Radios (CNR) for the force's Uralvagonzavod T-72M Main Battle Tanks (MBT) because they did not meet the army's requirements and were deemed unnecessary.

In 2005, the Army bought 322 Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) LVM-280 Very High Frequency (30-300 Megahertz/MHz) vehicular radios for field trials. By 2006, only 178 had been delivered for testing, while the remaining radios were undelivered because of existing compatibility problems.



The radios were initially acquired to replace the Russian R-123M Very High Frequency and R-130M High Frequency (3-30MHz) radios equipping these MBTs, however, the LVM-280 transceivers were found to be incompatible with other Russian radios used elsewhere in the army.

The problems were reportedly so severe that the LVM-280 radios required an upgrade to the STARS V Mk II standard at an additional \$1.6 million to be able to communicate with other Army assets. According to the BEL website, the STARS V Mk II radio is a manpack radio which forms part of the firm's Secure Tactical Radio System VHF (STARS V) family, developed to meet the requirements of long range VHF radio communications.

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