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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
(2024-25)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

**ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, JOINT STAFF AND EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY
HEALTH SCHEME**

(DEMAND NOS. 20 AND 21)

SECOND REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2024 / Agrahayana 1946 (Saka)

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(DEMAND NOS. 20 AND 21)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2024.

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.12.2024.



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2024 / Agrahayana 1946 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

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CHAIRPERSON

Lok Sabha

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Adhikari Deepak Dev
5	Shri Ranjit Dutta
6	Captain Viriato Fernandes
7	Shri Rahul Gandhi
8	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
9	Shri S. Jagathratchakan
10	Ms. S. Jothimani
11	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
12	Shri Shashank Mani
13	Shri Lumba Ram
14	Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
15	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
16	Shri Jagadish Shettar
17	Shri Virendra Singh
18	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
19	Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan
20	Com. Selvaraj V.
21	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha
Rajya Sabha	
22	Shri Naresh Bansal
23	Shri N. Chandrasegharan
24	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
25	Shri Prem Chand Gupta
26	Shri Naveen Jain
27	Shri Muzibulla Khan
28	Shri Praful Patel
29	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
30	Shri Sanjay Singh
31	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tirthankar Das - Director
3. Shri Anjorem Kerketta - Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (Demand Nos. 20 And 21).'

2. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence were laid on 2 August, 2024 in Lok Sabha. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence on 21 and 26 November, 2024. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 12th December, 2024.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part II of the Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Defence and representatives of the Services/Organisations for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants.

5. The Committee also place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them by the Committee Secretariat.

New Delhi;
17 December, 2024
26 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

RADHA MOHAN SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Defence

REPORT
CHAPTER I
ARMY

The Committee are aware of the fact that the Indian Army is an important component of the Armed Forces. It safeguards the territorial boundaries of the country, preserves national interests and safeguards sovereignty, integrity and unity of our Nation. The challenges before Army include thwarting proxy wars, arresting internal threats, assist the Government and the people of India during all needs and crises such as natural disasters etc. The budgetary demands for Army are contained in Demand Nos. 20 and 21.

1.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Army for the year 2024-25, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and actual expenditure for Army during the last five years including 2023-24, separately for Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2024-25. The details submitted to the Committee are tabulated below:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	1,52,321.32	1,40,398.49	1,52,424.82	1,42,773.83	1,42,529.38
2020-21	1,65,228.28	1,45,785.88	1,53,436.68	1,44,545.67	1,39,903.33
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
2023-24	1,84,989.60	1,81,371.97	1,97,628.57	1,95,032.23	1,91,602.05
2024-25	2,14,577.03	1,91,319.60	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	44,660.57	29,511.25	46,032.00	29,666.90	29,000.88
2020-21	50,373.60	32,462.38	39,019.17	33,283.28	26,320.93
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
2023-24	37,341.54	37,341.54	33,412.16	33,412.16	28,613.45
2024-25	35,664.95	35,664.95	-	-	-

Revenue Budget

1.3 From the table 'A', it is evident that the Revenue budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. A major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The

non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Army. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2024-25, against Revenue Head, projection of Army was Rs. 2,14,577.03 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 1,91,319.60 crore, hence allocation lessened by Rs. 23257.43 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2023-24, under Revenue head, Army's projection was Rs. 1,97,628.57 crore and allocation made was Rs. 1,95,032.23 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 2596.34 crore, however, the expenditure incurred during FY 2023-24 was Rs. 1,91,602.05 crore.

Capital Budget

1.4 Capital Budget, as shown in table 'B', provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2024-25, Army's projection was Rs. 35,664.95 crore and the same amount was allocated to it. There is no deduction allocation *vis-a-vis* demand, though it is less than BE 2023-24 projection of Rs. 37,341.54 crore. In RE 2023-24, the projection of the Army was Rs. 33,412.16 crore and there was no deduction in allocation. However, the expenditure incurred during FY 2023-24 was only Rs. 28,613.45 crore.

1.5 During oral evidence, on allocation of budget, the representative of Army apprised the Committee as under:

“Coming to the Indian Army budget for the Financial Year 2024-25, I will now highlight the allocations for the Financial Year 2024-25. The Indian Army has been allocated Rs.228698 crores which is 3.8 per cent higher than the Budget Estimate of the Financial Year 2023-24. The allocation is planned to be utilized under two major categories. The revenue component comprises mainly of salaries, risk and hardship allowance and budget for operations, maintenance and sustenance. The capital component comprises of allocations for modernization and infrastructure development.”

1.6 Further, in respect of Demand No. 20, the representative submitted:

“Coming to Demand No.20, the revenue budget, out of the allocation of Rs.1,93,050 crore, salary and allowances have been allocated Rs.1,42,659 crore which includes Siachen allowance, counter-insurgency allowance, high altitude area allowance, field area allowance, etc. The balance Rs.50,391 crore is earmarked for expenditure towards ammunition, rations, fuel, clothing, upkeep of equipment, transportation, stores, Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, etc. The operation, maintenance and sustenance budget has had an absolute increase of Rs.1000 crore over budget estimate of 2023-24 which is a two per cent increase. A portion of the budget has

been delegated to Regional Army Commands for further sub-allocation to the field formations under them through the command budget model. This has ensured optimal utilisation and control at all levels. This budget is utilised under six minor heads. Stores account for maximum amount which is 43.7 per cent of the budget and meets requirement of ammunition, security-related equipment, replacement of weapons and vehicles, their spares, ration, fuel, clothing and such other necessities for the sustenance of the Army. Works accounts for 21.5 per cent of the expenditure which is utilised for construction and maintenance of field defences, ammunition, logistics storage infrastructure, billeting in border areas and in peace stations.

Rs.4,760 crore allocated for transportation will be utilised to turnover and movement of units from operational areas to peace stations and vice versa, major movements for training and move of personnel and stores by rail, air, sea and road. Together, Rashtriya Rifles and ECHS account for approximately 15.47 per cent allocation under this head. The distribution and allocation for sub-heads is based on prioritisation of commitments and projections and operational criticalities.”

1.7 In respect of Demand No. 21, the representative submitted the following:

“I will now cover the Indian Army allocations for capital expenditure as part of Demand No.21. The capital budget has two major heads: modernisations through procurement of new equipment and weapon platforms which amounts to Rs.27,421 crore or 77 per cent of the total allocation. With balance Rs.8,227 crore or 23 per cent being allocated for development of key infrastructure in the financial year 2024-25, the allocation will take care of renewed focus on expenditure on infrastructure to support our effort along the northern borders as well as improvement of habitat in field areas and military stations. Modernisation budget would be utilised to make delivery-based payments for weapons, ammunition and other warlike equipment as also for payment against new acquisitions. Major focus has been in areas of precision targeting, long-range vectors, intelligence, surveillance and recce systems, satellite communication enablement, night vision equipment, unmanned aerial systems and counter-unmanned aerial systems. This year also, modernisation through induction of indigenous weapons and platforms is being explored further. In the current financial year, acceptance of necessity worth Rs.1,06974 crore has been accorded for procurement of new equipment and weapons from indigenous sources. The infrastructure budget is planned to be utilised under five parts. Capital works would account for approximately 68 per cent of expenditure. This includes ammunition storage, vital logistic infrastructure and construction in

border areas as also storage facilities and habitat. Eastern Command infrastructure and border roads along Chinese border put together account for approximately 16 per cent of the budget and is planned to be utilised for enhancing infrastructure in the North Eastern Region and roads towards the Line of Actual Control. Land acquisition accounts for approximately four per cent of the budget and will be utilised for acquisition of land for training areas, field firing ranges and accommodation for troops. Married accommodation project accounts for approximately one per cent of the budget.”

1.8 While highlighting certain positive developments in the current financial year 2024-25, the representative of the Ministry submitted as under:

“.....I would like to highlight some positive developments in the current financial year 2024-25. New schemes have been prioritised to enhance security infrastructure, surveillance, research and development and fighting capability of the Indian Army. Special emphasis is being laid to develop infrastructure along Northern borders and Western front. Any additional budget required for priority operations, sustenance and modernisation of the Indian Army will be met at the revised/supplementary stage as hitherto fore.”

1.9 When the Committee desired to know the reasons behind non-utilization of fund during FY 2023-24, a representative of the Ministry submitted as under:

“As far as the surrender of the Budget last year by the Army is concerned, that is quite true..... But correspondingly, there was an increase in the revenue budget (allocation) for the Armed Forces. So, that is the explanation.”

Percentage Share of Army Budget

1.10 When the Committee desired to know the percentage share of Army budget, both in Revenue and Capital segments, out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years, the Ministry furnished the following:

“Percentage share of Revenue and Capital allocation for Army out of Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years is given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE (Defence Service Estimates) #	Army (Revenue)	%age share	Army (Capital)	%age share	Army (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2019-20	3,05,296.07	1,40,398.49	45.99	29,511.25	9.67	1,69,909.74	55.66
2020-21	3,23,053.00	1,45,785.88	45.13	32,462.38	10.05	1,78,248.26	55.18
2021-22	3,47,088.28	1,47,644.13	42.54	36,531.90	10.53	1,84,176.03	53.06
2022-23	3,85,370.15	1,63,713.69	42.48	32,115.26	8.33	1,95,828.95	50.82
2023-24	4,32,720.14	1,81,371.97	41.91	37,341.54	8.63	2,18,713.51	50.54

DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget

1.11 The Ministry has also informed that the 13th Defence Plan was foreclosed in view of the formulation of the new joint capability development process termed as Integrated Capability Development System (ICADS). Notwithstanding, all procurements are being carried out in consonance with the long term requirements which are part of LTIPP (2012-2027). However, actual capital procurements are carried out on the basis of the two-year roll on Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP).

1.12 Details of percentage share of Capital and Revenue allocation for Army out of Defence Services Estimates for each year and as a whole during the period of Thirteenth Plan are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Defence Service Estimates#	Army (Revenue)	%age share	Army (Capital)	%age share	Army (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2017-18	2,59,261.90*	1,19,961.51	46.27	25,205.71	9.72	1,45,167.22	55.99
2018-19	2,79,305.32*	1,27,059.51	45.49	26,815.71	9.60	1,53,875.22	55.09
2019-20	3,05,296.07	1,40,398.49	45.99	29,511.25	9.67	1,69,909.74	55.66
2020-21	3,23,053.00	1,45,785.88	45.13	32,462.38	10.05	1,78,248.26	55.18
2021-22	3,47,088.28	1,47,644.13	42.54	36,531.90	10.53	1,84,176.03	53.06
Total	15,14,004.57	6,80,849.52	44.97	1,50,526.95	9.94	8,31,376.47	54.91

DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget. * Excludes MF & ECHS.

1.13 There is an evident decrease in percentage share of revenue budget of Army out of Defence Services Estimates from **46.27** per cent in 2017-18 to **41.91**

per cent in 2023-24 and in capital budget share from **9.72** percent in 2017-18 to **8.63** per cent in 2023-24.

1.14 When the Committee desired to know whether any adjustments were made due to reduced allocation, the Ministry, in a written reply, apprised as under :

Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Army during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as follows:-

REVENUE (Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	1,52,321.32	1,40,398.49	1,52,424.82	1,42,773.83	1,42,529.38
2020-21	1,65,228.28	1,45,785.88	1,53,436.68	1,44,545.67	1,39,903.33
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
2023-24	1,84,989.60	1,81,371.97	1,97,628.57	1,95,032.23	1,91,602.05

CAPITAL (Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	44,660.57	29,511.25	46,032.00	29,666.90	29,000.08
2020-21	50,373.60	32,462.38	39,019.17	33,283.28	26,320.93
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
2023-24	37,341.54	37,341.54	33,412.16	33,412.16	28,613.45

1.15 It may be seen from the data provided above that there has been an increase in the allocations/expenditure in respect of the Army in Revenue Budget. However, expenditure in FY 20-21 remained low under Revenue Head due to lesser outgo on account of various reasons including:- non-increase in Dearness Allowance by Gol; lesser movement of personnel; lesser expenditure on Stores and Foreign Travel; lesser availability of labour for maintenance works due to pandemic; non-recruitment of personnel due to COVID pandemic situation and subsequent lockdown across the country, etc.

1.16 As regards Capital Head, allocations at BE stage have been increasing consistently since FY 2019-20 (except for FY 2022-23). In RE 2022-23, additional allocation of Rs. 483.23 Crore had been made over BE 2022-23 based on the projections made by the Army and further Rs. 4,700 Crore had been allocated at MA stage as per requirement of the Army which was utilized. However, expenditure remained low under Capital Head in FY 20-21 in comparison to RE 20-21 due to lesser outgo on account of various reasons including:- non-fructification of land acquisition cases, slippages against contracts/ supply orders/ indents placed on DGOF, underutilization of funds due

to COVID-19, etc. There was less expenditure in FY 23-24 due to booking deducts on account of transfer of Defence land and non-fructification of planned Land Acquisition cases, slippages in delivery by the vendors, slow progress/non-settlement of pending court cases, non-conclusion of Capital contracts and limited progress of works on ground. It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it is ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Budget for Modernization

1.17 The Committee were apprised that in the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for Committed Liabilities (CL) and New Schemes (NS). In the FY 2023-24, amounts to the tune of Rs. 30,163.00 Crore at BE stage and 26,500 Crore at RE stage were allocated to the Army under the Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head. Further, earmarking between Committed Liabilities and New Schemes is carried out by Service HQs based on prioritization among the projects/schemes and the progress of contractual milestones. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 23,079.39 Crore had incurred in FY 2023-24. An amount of Rs. 3955.33 Crore had been surrendered by the Army under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head in FY 2023-24 at the RE/MA stage.

Further, in BE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 27,421.33 Crore has been allocated to the Army under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head, against which expenditure of Rs. 10,348.70 Crore has been incurred upto September, 2024.

1.18 The Committee were further apprised as under:

“In FY 2019-20, the Army had sought additional allocation of Rs. 13,978.42 Crore in first supplementary and Rs. 8,118.00 Crore at second supplementary stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head for meeting expenditure on account of: committed payments to HAL, foreign Committed Liabilities, DPSUs, Brahmos and Pvt. Vendors, and procurement of critical vehicles to meet the operational requirements. However, the Ministry did not receive any additional allocations at the Supplementary stages.

In FY 2020-21, the Army had sought additional allocation of Rs. 7,300 Crore in first supplementary to cater for shortfall towards Committed Liabilities, emergency powers-2020 and requirement for construction of offices in connection with Central Vista Project. No additional funds were sought at second and final supplementary stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

Under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head, Army had sought no additional allocation at Supplementary stages in FY 2021-22.

Army had sought no additional allocation at any Supplementary Stage in FY 2022-23 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

In FY 2023-24, Army had sought no additional allocation at Supplementary stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.”

1.19 Details of additional requirements projected by Army under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional funds projected at RE stage over BE allocations	RE Allocation
2019-20	23,000.63	36,979.05	13,978.42	23,517.31
2020-21	26,068.61	31,961.00	5,892.39	26,068.61
2021-22	30,636.90	30,636.90	0.00	19,485.09
2022-23	25,908.85	27,051.00	1,142.15	27,051.00
2023-24	30,163.00	26,500.00	-3,663.00	26,500.00

The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head.

1.20 Details of requirements projected by Army under modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head at MA stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2019-20	23,517.31	23,826.70	309.39	23,826.70
2020-21	26,068.61	22,452.75	-3,615.86	22,452.75
2021-22	19,485.09	20,304.93	819.84	20,304.93
2022-23	27,051.00	31,751.00	4,700.00	31,751.00
2023-24	26,500.00	23,900.00	-2,600.00	23,900.00

It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it is ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.”

Planning and Procurement

1.21 On Planning and Procurement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Defence Capital acquisition is carried out in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)/Defence Acquisition Procedure(DAP) and undertaken through Ten years Integrated Capability Development Plan(ICDP), Five Years Defence Capability Acquisition Plan (DCAP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP).The cases listed in the approved Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP) are progressed as per the DPP/DAP provisions and funds allocated and budgeted under the capital Acquisitions heads of Concerned Service for the given financial year.

Details of AoNs accorded for Army during last financial year 2023-24 and current Financial year 2024-25 (upto Sep, 2024) are given below:-

2023-24		2024-25(upto Sep,2024)	
No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)	No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)
19	35,698.55	5	61,534.23

24 AoNs worth about ₹97,232.78 Cr. have been accorded during last Financial year 2023-24 and current financial year 2024-25 (upto Sep, 2024) which are under various stages of the Acquisition process for induction of the equipment in the services in subsequent years.”

Indigenization

1.22 The Committee desired to know about the efforts made by the Army towards realization of indigenization and self-reliance. In this connection, it was informed that the Ministry of Defence as a whole is committed to Aatma Nirbharta in Defence. With emphasis on self reliance & Make in India and to enable import substitution following initiatives are being undertaken:-

(a) Highest priority to procurement under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

(b) Introduction of new category of Buy (Global-Manufacture in India) to give push to ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government.

(c) Increased Indigenous Content (IC) in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020. Inclusion of provision for minimum 50% IC in the form of indigenous material/ components/ software in the equipment being acquired with an aim at boosting indigenous production and reduce import dependency.

(d) Notification of 'Positive Indigenisation Lists' on a periodic basis to promote Aatmanirbharta. Five Positive Indigenization Lists comprising of 509 platforms/ equipment have been issued.

(e) Self-Reliance in Indian Defence eco system with "No foreign sourcing". Foreign procurements only as exceptions with prior approval of Defence Acquisition Council.

(f) Earmarking of 64.09% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement in 2021-22, which have been increased to 68% for FY 2022-23, 75% for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25.

1.23 The Committee were apprised that during the last five financial year (2019-20 to 2023-24) and current Financial year 2024-25 (upto September, 2024), total 333 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Army, out of which 278 contracts worth about 88% of total contracts value, have been signed with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment.

Details of capital expenditure incurred on Indigenous procurement for Defence Equipments by the Army for the last five financial year and current financial year are as under :-

(Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Indigenous Procurement
2019-20	19,619.62
2020-21	17,446.83
2021-22	17,290.96
2022-23	20,018.59
2023-24	21,607.65
2024-25 (Upto Sep, 2024)	11,265.36

1.24 When asked about dedicated fund for acquisition from indigenous source, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under :

"During Financial Year 2024-25 under the "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" package, Gol announced "Separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement". Out of ₹27,421.33 Cr, ₹23,294.49 Cr (approx 85%) has been earmarked for domestic capital procurement for Army in BE 2024-25."

Bullet Proof Jackets

1.25 The Committee were apprised on the status of development of Bullet proof Jackets through a written submission as under:

“Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) against various protection levels are being developed & produced within the country. The development agencies include R&D agencies like DMSRDE, Kanpur (a unit of DRDO), IIT Delhi etc. Adequate industry base is available indigenously for production and manufacture of BPJ as per the requirement of Service HQs and State Police Forces. Bullet Proof Jackets are being procured by SHQs and the Ballistic Testing is carried out in accordance with General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and approved testing plan formulated through collegiate with testing agencies like Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh or National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar.

Till date, a total of 41 licences have been issued for manufacturing of Bullet Proof Jackets/Body Armour/Body Protector since 2001 by private industries. Out of these companies, 10 companies have commenced manufacturing.

Troop Comforts Limited (TCL) [erstwhile Ordnance Equipment Group of Factories] is also involved in the development of Bullet Proof Jackets and Vests for various threat levels. Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEF), Kanpur has developed one version of BPJ in collaboration with MIDHANI as ‘BHABHA KAVACH’ based upon the technologies developed by DRDO and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Another Unit of TCL, Ordnance Clothing Factory (OCF) Avadi has developed another version of BPJ as per MHA requirement and State Police Forces.”

Preparedness/capacity building

1.26 As regards capacity building, a representative of Ministry informed as under:

“Hon. Chairperson, hon. Members of the Standing Committee, the Indian Army remains committed to build its capability and be ready to operate in all kinds of operating environment thereby ensuring territorial integrity of our nation.”

1.27 As regards improvement in defence system the Chief of Defence Staff apprised the Committee as under:

“पिछले एक वर्ष में डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ मिलिट्री अफेयर्स, जिसे हम सैन्य कार्य विभाग भी कहते हैं, देश की रक्षा प्रणाली में काफी सुधार लाया है, जिससे हमारी सैन्य क्षमता, ऑपरेशनल तैयारी, स्ट्रेटेजिक पोस्चर के दृष्टिकोण में नहीं, बल्कि दिशा में भी बदलाव आया है। सैन्य कार्य विभाग का गठन वर्ष 2019 में किया गया था। यह मैं मानता हूँ कि यह अपने आप में ही व्यापक सुधार था। इससे तीनों सेनाओं के नजरिये और सोच में बदलाव आया है। हम सब कार्य को एकीकृत और संयुक्त रूप से देखते हैं और करने की कोशिश करते हैं। हम सब को पता है कि युद्ध और युद्ध कला में बहुत तेजी से परिवर्तन आ रहा है। तीनों सेनाओं के बीच में एकीकरण और संयुक्तीकरण समय मांग है। पिछले वर्ष में हम लोगों ने अग्निवीर स्कीम, इंटर सर्विसेज ऑर्गेनाइजेशन कमांड कंट्रोल एंडडिसिप्लिन बिल, जॉइंट लॉजिस्टिक नोट, जॉइंट एक्सरसाइजेज और एचएडीआर के अंदर भी जॉइंट विमोचन हुआ। मेंटेनेंस ऑफ कॉमन इक्विपमेंट, आत्मनिर्भरता और इस तरह की काफी सारी परियोजनाओं में बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लिया है। इसके अलावा सरकार की जो बाकी नीतियां हैं, जैसे नारी शक्ति, गति शक्ति, डिजिटल इंडिया, स्टार्ट अप इंडिया इन सब में भी हम मदद कर रहे हैं।”

1.28 In regard to surveillance of border areas, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“The Line of Actual Control is divided into three sectors – Western, Middle, and Eastern....To guard the Line of Actual Control, more than 169 infantry battalions are deployed along with requisite elements of armour and fire support systems. These deployments are reviewed regularly and great forces employed depending on the security threat.”

1.29 On the issue of threat perception, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“The threat due to these developments and the Sino-Pak nexus necessitates substantial enhancement and improvement of our existing infrastructure along the northern and western borders. To counter the rapidly changing threat from the adversary and non-state actors / organizations engaged in proxy war, legacy equipment is being replaced with state-of-the-art weapon systems and platforms incorporating niche and disruptive technologies. These technologies are being developed through indigenous research and development projects along with academia, industry and startups.

Force restructuring and optimization is also being undertaken where necessary.”

1.30 Further, regarding equipment and infrastructure deployment submitted as under:

“Equipment and infrastructure deployed in border areas require life cycle sustenance to include maintenance and repair. These activities are being undertaken as far forward as possible except for major overhauls and high technology repairs requiring specialized infrastructure and facilities at various army-based workshops located in the hinterland. To be able to accomplish the assigned role, both in peace and war, the Indian Army is required to train in realistic condition as they prevail in the actual area of operation. It includes tactical exercises in peak summers in the Rajasthan Sector to training in the Himalayan borders at super high altitudes and sub-zero temperatures. Joint training with sister services forms an inherent part of the systematic approach training and is critical to develop synergies and jointness within the armed forces. Interaction and training with Central Armed Police Forces such as ITBP, BSF, CRPF and even the state police forces is undertaken for internal security tasks.”

1.31 On the issue of counter terrorism operations, a representative of Army submitted during an oral evidence as under:

“The Indian Army is concurrently engaged in intense counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in the hinterland, both in Jammu and Kashmir and in the Northeast. Over two lakh troops guard the Line of Control around the clock. In addition, requisite number of troops are deployed in the hinterland on counter-insurgency duties.....While undertaking anti-terrorist operations, Indian Army has also suffered casualties – 49 fatal and 86 non-fatal, since March 2023 till date. Indian Army’s casualties have been reduced over the years by equipping our soldiers with better weapons, surveillance systems and protective as also focused training.”

1.32 As regards logistics in border areas, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“To support the troops deployed along the northern borders, all forms of transport are exploited. Over 1.5 million tonnes worth of commodities are stocked as part of advance winter stocking. Fixed-

wing aircraft transports over 53000 metric tonnes per year and over 5500 metric tonnes are transported inaccessible areas by employing helicopters. Indian Army is in the process of reducing its dependency on animal transport by adopting modern alternate means. Along the Line of Actual Control, the adversary continues to upgrade its infrastructure, technological prowess and military capabilities”.

1.33 In regard to training of Army personnel, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“Training requires creation of infrastructure, simulator, laboratories, and other training aids to be able to undertake realistic training. Rigorous training impulse is maintained despite restrictions like paucity of training areas through innovative methods. Restructuring of training has been undertaken in synchronization with current realities and requirements. The Indian Army also regularly trains with friendly foreign countries to hone its skills and understand best practices of other armies besides developing capabilities to operate in a multi-national environment. This year training was carried out with Japan, France, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, and Mongolian defence forces to name a few, both within India and on foreign soil.”

1.34 As regards to military diplomacy, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“Towards military diplomacy, the contribution of Indian Army as part of United Nations missions has found appreciation the world over. Currently, over 5200 troops of Indian Army are deployed in nine United Nations missions across the globe.”

Women empowerment

1.35 In respect to women empowerment, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“Indian Army is committed towards women empowerment. Army has deployed its women officers in difficult areas such as Siachen Glacier, Line of Actual Control, along the northern borders, and women pilots have been inducted in Army Aviation. Two officers and 25 sepoys form part of the all-women contingent to United Nations mission in Sudan. This year saw the first all-women officers and soldiers marching contingent in the Republic Day parade. Major Radhika Sen was honoured with the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.”

1.36 The Committee desired regarding training for war to women soldiers, CDS submitted as under:

“As far as the women Officers in the Armed Forces are concerned, presently, in the Army, I think, there are 1,732 women Officers, and apart from that, 99 of them are under training and OTA, and some of them are also training in the National Defence Academy. We have opened up all the Branches of the Army -- less I think, are armour and infantry (close combat arms), which are involved in close combat -- for the women Officers. Now, we also have women soldiers in all the three Services including the Army. So, these have been the major initiatives towards the Nari Shakti.”

1.37 The Committee desired to know about the seized weapons through the counter-insurgency operations, CDS submitted as under:

“सभापति जी, पहला सवाल आतंकवादियों वगैरह से जो वैपन्स सीज किए जाते हैं, उनके लिए था। इसके लिए एफआईआर होती है और पुलिस को बताया जाता है कि हथियार पकड़े गए हैं। Most of the weapons then are required for a court case. So, they are shown to the police and then deposited with the Army. As and when this is required by the court, then they are produced for them.”

Role of Army during disaster and natural calamities

1.38 With regard to providing relief measures during natural disaster and calamities, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“Indian Army is often the first responder in times of natural disaster and calamities by virtue of its inherent organizational structure and deployment pan India. Providing humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities remains a priority for the Indian Army for which the Army trains and liaises with civilian administration and other stakeholders on a periodic basis.”

CHAPTER II

AIR FORCE

The Committee are fully aware of the fact that the Air Force leverages the airpower of the Armed Forces. For effective command and control, the IAF has various commands, under which there are different stations and units located at various places throughout the country. Humanitarian assistance during disaster relief is another vital and momentous role of the Indian Air Force. The budgetary demands for the Air Force are contained in Demand Nos.19 and 20.

2.2 The Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure for the Air Force during the last five years including 2023-24, separately for the Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2024-25. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	34,849.50	29,601.69	40,382.40	29,951.69	30,124.31
2020-21	43,904.17	29,962.66	44,605.21	31,742.07	32,825.23
2021-22	44,992.90	30,652.53	48,816.59	34,283.02	34,375.46
2022-23	50,692.44	32,873.46	54,997.72	44,728.10	45,667.16
2023-24	68,081.58	44,345.58	56,565.41	56,272.10	53,024.91
2024-25	60,847.17	46,223.49	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	74,894.56	39,347.19	81,301.99	44,947.19	45,104.23
2020-21	66,207.29	43,281.91	72,955.18	55,083.91	58,207.95
2021-22	77,140.56	53,214.77	71,176.39	53,214.77	53,217.19
2022-23	85,322.60	56,851.55	56,264.54	53,871.17	44,917.78
2023-24	58,808.48	58,268.71	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
2024-25	59,062.07	59,062.07	-	-	-

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc., which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of Air Force. In Budget Estimates (BE) for Financial Year 2024-25, against Revenue Head, projection of Air Force has been Rs. 60,847.17 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 46,223.49 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for Financial Year 2023-24, under Revenue head, Air Force's projection was Rs. 56,565.41 crore and allocation made was Rs. 56,272.10 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 239.31 crore. However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 53,024.91 crore during FY 2023-24.

Capital Budget

Capital Budget chiefly provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in Budget Estimate for Financial Year 2024-25, Air Force's projection was Rs. 59,062.07 crore and the same was allotted to it. In RE, 2023-24 the projection of Air Force was Rs. 58,268.71, however, an increased allocation of Rs. 58,500.51 crore was made. However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 60,757.63 crore in Financial Year 2023-24.

2.3 During the deliberations on Demands for Grants 2023-24, a representative of Air Force deposed to the Committee as under:

“...Over the last five years, there has been a comfortable allocation of funds, both for the capability enhancement as well as sustenance. IAF's total budgetary allocation in the last five years has grown at an average rate of approximately 11 per cent.

The capital budget allocation in the last five years has grown at an average growth rate of 8 per cent, whereas the revenue budget has seen an enhancement by approximately 9.71 per cent. In line with the Government's initiative of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IAF's capital acquisition expenditure towards foreign sources will be kept below the given target of 30 per cent. In this current financial year, IAF is expected to surpass the domestic expenditure target of 70 per cent. Approximately 50 per cent of the revenue budget is utilised for other than salary funding.

Within the other than salary budget, 60 per cent is used for stores which meet the maintenance and sustenance requirement of IAF. IAF operations are very expensive, and going by the annual averages, nearly 34 per cent of this budget is spent on petrol, oil, and lubricants alone. The other major consumers of this budget are infrastructure-related work services that accounts for 12 per cent approximately, and

the repair and overall payments to HAL to the tune of approximately 16 per cent. As can be seen from the breakdown, apart from salaries, the major percentage of the revenue budget is utilised for only operational requirement.”

Percentage Share of Air Force Budget

2.4 The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Air Force budget (both Revenue and Capital) out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE (Defence Services Estimates#)	Air Force (Revenue)	%age share	Air Force (Capital)	%age share	Air Force (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2019-20	3,05,296.07	29,601.69	9.70	39,347.19	12.89	68,948.88	22.59
2020-21	3,23,053.00	29,962.66	9.27	43,281.91	13.40	73,244.57	22.67
2021-22	3,47,088.28	30,652.53	8.83	53,214.77	15.33	83,867.30	24.16
2022-23	3,85,370.15	32,873.46	8.53	56,851.55	14.75	89,725.01	23.28
2023-24	4,32,720.14	44,345.58	10.25	58,268.71	13.47	102,614.29	23.71

(# DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget)

(\$ - Excludes Military Farms and ECHS which were shifted from Air Force to modified Grant -MoD(Miscellaneous) in FY 2016-17 and reverted back to DSE in FY 2019-20)

2.5 The Committee were apprised that the 13th Defence Plan was foreclosed in view of the formulation of the new joint capability development process termed as Integrated Capability Development System (ICADS). Notwithstanding, all procurements are being carried out in consonance with the long term requirements which are part of LTIPP (2012-2027). However, actual capital procurements are carried out on the basis of the two-year roll on Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). Details of percentage share of Capital and Revenue allocation for Air Force out of Defence Services Estimates for each year and as a whole during the period of Thirteenth Plan are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Defence Service Estimates*	Air Force(Revenue)	%age share	Air Force(Capital)	%age share	Air Force(Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2017-18	2,59,261.90#	24,802.33	9.57	33,570.17	12.95	58,372.50	22.52
2018-19	2,79,305.32#	28,821.27	10.32	35,770.17	12.81	64,591.44	23.13
2019-20	3,05,296.07	29,601.69	9.70	39,347.19	12.89	68,948.88	22.59
2020-21	3,23,053.00	29,962.66	9.27	43,281.91	13.40	73,244.57	22.67
2021-22	3,47,088.28	30,652.53	8.83	53,214.77	15.33	83,867.30	24.16
Total	15,14,004.57	1,43,840.48	9.50	2,05,184.21	13.55	3,49,024.69	23.05

*DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget

Excludes MF & ECHS

2.6 It can be seen from above that there is an increase in percentage share of revenue budget of Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates from 9.70 per cent in 2019-20 to 10.25 per cent in 2023-24. At the same time, there is an increase in capital budget share from 12.89 percent in 2019-20 to 13.47 percent in 2023-24. There is an increase in absolute terms under both revenue and capital heads during the same time period.

2.7 The Committee desired to know any adjustments were made due to reduced allocation, if any, in Revenue and Capital Budget during the last five years the data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2019-20			
Revenue	29,601.69	29,951.69	30,124.31
Capital	39,347.19	44,947.19	45,104.23
Total	68,948.88	74,898.88	75,228.54
2020-21			
Revenue	29,962.66	31,742.07	32,825.23
Capital	43,281.91	55,083.91	58,207.95
Total	73,244.57	86,825.98	91,033.18

2021-22			
Revenue	30,652.53	34,283.02	34,375.46
Capital	53,214.77	53,214.77	53,217.19
Total	83,867.30	87,497.79	87,592.65
2022-23			
Revenue	32,873.46	44,728.10	45,667.15
Capital	56,851.55	53,871.17	44,917.78
Total	89,725.01	98,599.27	90,584.93
2023-24			
Revenue	44,345.58	56,272.10	53,024.91
Capital	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
Total	1,02,614.29	1,14,772.61	1,13,782.54

2.8 It may be seen from the above table that there has been no reduction in allocation at RE stage under both Revenue and Capital Heads. Allocations under Capital Head at BE stage are either increased or maintained at RE stage. The additional allocations made at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, Committed liabilities of Air Force and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head. Also, the allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Budget for Modernization

2.9 In the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for Committed Liabilities (CL) and New Schemes (NS). Further, earmarking between Committed Liabilities and New Schemes is carried out by Service HQrs based on prioritization among the projects/schemes and the progress of contractual milestones. In BE 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 54,024.37 Crore was allocated to Air Force under the Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head (which includes Committed Liabilities and New Schemes). In RE 2023-24, allocation to Air Force was increased by Rs. 602.62 Crore to Rs. 54,626.99 Crore over BE 2023-24 under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head against which expenditure of Rs. 57,427.53 Crore was booked. No surrender of funds was done by Air Force under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head in FY 2023-24.

2.10 In FY 2024-25, an allocation of Rs. 54,569.91 Crore is made to Air Force under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head against which

expenditure of Rs. 18,594.05 Crore has been incurred till September, 2024. Surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Revised Estimates/ Modified Appropriation of current financial year 2024-25.

2.11 No additional funds were sought by the Air Force under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head at Supplementary Stage in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.

2.12 Details of additional requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection at RE over BE	RE Allocation
2022-23	52,749.98	52,750.00	0.02	50,621.76
2023-24	54,024.37	54,395.19	370.82	54,626.99

2.13 It may be seen from the table that no additional funds were allocated to Air Force in RE 2022-23 over BE 2022-23 under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head. In RE 2023-24, an additional allocation of Rs. 602.62 Crore was made to Air Force over BE 2023-24. The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, Committed liabilities of Air Force and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head.

2.14 Details of requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:-

(Rs. I n Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2022-23	50,621.76	45,921.74	-4,700.02	45,921.74
2023-24	54,626.99	59,271.16	4,644.17	59,271.16

2.15 The Committee may be apprised that the allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

2.16 During oral evidence, on modernization, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee as under:

“Parallely, with the objective of maintaining the qualitative status with respect to our adversaries, IAF has, over the years, upgraded its legacy fleets and brought them to near 4th Generation Capability. However, because of their vintage, some sustenance issues do exist.”

Planning and Procurement

2.17 The Ministry, through written reply, apprised the Committee regarding acquisition plans as under:

“IAF has inducted two Sqns of Rafale fighter aircraft and two Sqns of indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Mk I). The other ongoing acquisition plans for fighter aircraft are highlighted below:

(i) IAF is procuring 83 LCA Mk1A aircraft. The deliveries are delayed and are expected to commence in the current FY. Additionally, AoN for 97 LCA Mk 1A was granted by DAC on 30 November, 2023, for which the process of finalizing the contract is ongoing.

(ii) IAF also plans to process case for induction of Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) in a phased manner. The case is proposed to be progressed under the provisions of DAP-2020.

(iii) DRDO is working on indigenous development of LCA Mk2 ac and a fifth generation fighter called the Advance Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). The deliveries for LCA Mk-II and AMCA are expected to commence only into the next decade once the development cycle is successfully completed.

(iv) Acquisition plans in respect of other than fighter fleet are as under:

1. Helicopter Fleet

(a) Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production (LSP)
All the 10 LCH LSP have been inducted in IAF.

- (b) LCH SP. On 15 Jan 24, AoN has been granted for procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH). Out of these 156 LCH Helicopters, 90 LCH are for Indian Army and 66 for IAF. IAF is the lead service in this project. RFP was issued on 14 Jun 24, Technical Evaluation Committee was constituted on 16 Aug 24 and is under progress.
- (c) Light Utility Helicopter (LUH Mk-I) Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) is a new generation single helicopter, indigenously designed, developed and manufactured in India by HAL. Indian Army is processing a joint case for procurement of 12 LUH (06 each for IAF & IA). AoN was accorded on 23 Nov 21. TEC was approved by DG (acq) on 11 Jan 23. The project is at CNC stage.
- (d) Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) & Deck Based Multi Role Helicopter (DBMRH). IAF is processing a case for procurement of 353 IMRH and 66 DBMRH (for IN) for which D& D is being undertaken by HAL. IMRH being procured by IAF would also be utilized for the Indian Army to facilitate transportation of Special Forces and other para military forces.

2. Transport Fleet

- (a) **Avro Replacement (C-295MW)** Contract for 56 x C-295 MW aircraft as replacement for Avro was signed with M/s Airbus Defence and Space (ADS), Spain on 24 Sep 21. Under this project, 16 aircraft will be delivered in 'Fly Away' condition and 40 aircraft will be manufactured in India by Tata Consortium (led by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) with Tata Consultancy Services.) CAS formally accepted the first aircraft on 13 September, 2023 at Seville, Spain. Construction of Final Assembly Line at Vadodara completed on 16 July, 2024. Pre-FAL activities to commence at Vadodara in December, 2024. Final Assembly of 40 aircraft in India will take place at Final Assembly Line facility at Vadodara, Gujarat.
- (b) **Avionics Upgrade of Dornier aircraft.** IAG has a total of 62 Do-228 aircraft, AoN was accorded for avionics upgrade of 40 x Do-228 (HM series) aircraft. Some of the systems planned for upgrade are Cockpit instrumentation with Glass cockpit, Auto Pilot, Nav, SSFDR/CVR etc. CFA approval is under progress.

3. Combat Enablers.

(a) **Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA).** IAF has moved cases for procuring FRA to bridge critical capability gap in this domain.

(i) **Procurement of six FRA.** AoN for procurement of six FRA was granted on 16 February, 2024.

(b) **SCA.** IAF intends to procure three SIGINT and COMJAM aircraft (SCA). The system is planned on pre-owned jet class platforms. AoN for the same has been accorded by DAC on 15 March, 2024. The D&D of mission systems will be carried out indigenously. RFP was issued on 13 September, 2024.

(c) **AEW&C Mk 1A.** To bridge the capability gap in the Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) platforms, IAF is processing a case for Design and Development of six AEW&C Mk-1A aircraft. CABS, DRDO would be the nodal agency for development.

(d) **AEW&C Mk-II.** Approval for procurement of six AEW&C Mk-II aircraft was accorded by the CCS on 08 September, 2021. CABS, DRDO is the nodal agency for development. AEW&C Mk-II is an enhanced version of AEW&C with better radar ranges and upgraded Mission System Avionics (MSA). The platform for the system is pre-owned Airbus A-321 aircraft acquired from Air India. The modification of aircraft for this role requires assistance from OEM. The D&D of mission systems is being carried out indigenously.

4. Trainer Fleet.

(a) HTT-40. Contract for procurement of 70 x HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) from HAL has been signed on 06 March, 2023. Deliveries are to commence from 15 September, 2025.

5. Surface to Air Guided Weapons.

(a) **Close-In Weapon System (CIWS).** The contract for procurement of 61 flights of CIWS and associated Equipment was signed on 01 March, 2024. CIWS is an integrated system consisting of a Radars and guns to provide on 3600 coverage to Vulnerable Areas (Vas)/Vulnerable Points (VPs) from aerial threats. This is a very quick reaction system for short ranges around 3 to 3.5 Kms.

(b) **VSHORADS.** IAF is procuring launchers and missiles as a part of D&D undertaken by DRDO, RCI. The project is likely to be completed soon.

6. RPAs and UAVs.

(a) **MALE/HALE (UAV)**. IAF is processing a case for procurement of MALE RPAs for the three services.

(b) **Counter Measures against Illegal Drones (RF Jammer Guns)**. The contract for procurement of 200 systems for IAF has been signed on 04 March, 2024. Kick off meeting was held on 19 April, 2024. Deliveries are to commence from March, 2025.

7. **Radars {LLTR (Ashwini)}**. A project was sanctioned to LRDE, Bengaluru on 17 June, 2009 for development of Low Level Transportable Radar (LLTR). User trials have been completed. Revalidation of AoN was obtained from DAC on 22 December, 2022. RFP was issued on 21 December, 2023. The commercial bids were submitted on 12 June 2024 and opened on 01 October, 2024. Scrutiny of commercial bids is under progress.

8. Indigenous weapons Development.

(a) **New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile**. New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM) is a technology demonstration project, for the development of country's first indigenous Air Launched Air-to-Surface Anti-Radiation Missile System. The development of this weapon system is spear-headed by DRDL, Hyderabad and is likely to be completed soon.

(b) **Astra Mk-I & Mk-II BVR AA Missile**. To cater to deficiency in Air to Air missiles, D&D of Astra BVR missile has been initiated by DRDO. The delivery of Astra Mk-I missile is in process and the procurement of additional Astra Mk-I missile is under progress. Procurement of Astra Mk-II missile is also being processed.

(c) **Pralay**. Pralay which is a Surface to Surface missile with a range of approximately 400 Km and has a capability to strike different types of targets using different types of warhead. The project is under D&D by RCI, DRDO and is likely to be completed soon.

(d) **LR-LACM**. The design and development of LR-LACM is under way by DRDO, ADE. The project is likely to be completed soon.

(e) **LR-SOW**. D&D by DRDO on Long Range Stand-Off Weapons with ranges greater than 300 Km and higher payload is under progress in order to have enhanced capability of indigenous weapons. The project is likely to be completed soon.

(f) **Tactical Advance Range Augmentation Kit.** D&D by RCI on TARA kit is under progress and is likely to be completed soon. IAF is planning to procurement of significant number of TARA Kits.

(g) **Long Range Glide Bomb.** D&D by RCI for LRGB is under progress and likely to be completed soon. IAF is planning the procurement of 300 LRGB.

(h) **SAAV Weapon System.** Sat-SAAW weapon systems are being procured for Indian Air Force and Indian Navy which is co-developed by RCI with BDL as production agency.

Indigenization

IAF has renewed its focus on attaining self-reliance in defence manufacturing and helping the industry in building indigenous systems. As part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IAF is pursuing indigenous production of fighters, transport, helicopters and trainer aircraft along with air to air weapons, air to ground weapons, surface to air guided weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles and radars. IAF is also in the continuous process of indigenization of foreign sourced equipment / aircraft components.

2.18 During oral evidence, on indigenously upgradation of aircrafts, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee as under:

“In the last one year, there were a few scrambles against air space violation. The entire monitoring of the command control of the air situation is achieved through another indigenous marvel -- the Integrated Air Command and Control System -- which is a seamless network of all ground and airborne sensors in the country. The IACCS is another example of indigenous effort. It is unique in its design and provides the required redundancy and flexibility in the command and control of air space. Presently, the latest version of this capability is being rolled out.

Now, I come to combat capabilities. The fighter aircraft remains the main instrument of prosecuting the air war and conversely for air defence too. आज की तारीख में सू30 भारतीय वायुसेना का सबसे बड़ा बेड़ा है। यह काफी सक्षम जहाज़ है। क्योंकि यह आने वाले समय में हमारा मेन स्टेज जहाज़ रहेगा, इसकी कैपेबिलिटी एक इंडिजीनस अपग्रेड प्रोग्राम के तहत बढ़ाई जा रही है। यह प्रोग्राम पूरी तरह से इंडिजीनिस होगा। इसको भारतीय वायुसेना की देखरेख में एचएएल, डीआरडीओ, एवं प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्री के द्वारा एग्जिक्यूट किया जाएगा। इस

प्लान्ड अपग्रेड की सारी प्लानिंग हो चुकी है और फिल्हाल यह प्रपोजल अप्रूवल प्रोसेस के आखरी चरण पर है। सू30 के अलावा रफाल और एलसीए मार्क वन ए दोनों कंटेम्पररी 4.5 जनरेशन के लड़ाकू हैं। रफाल की हमारे पास दो स्कॉडर्न हैं। और एलसीए मार्क वन की डिलिवरीज अभी शुरू होने वाली हैं। ईवन दो एलसीए के डेवलपमेंट में काफी डिले थी, the Mark 1A will be a good example of the whole of nation approach wherein IAF, DRDO and HAL have been able to build a contemporary all-weather light combat aircraft, which is designed on modular concept. It boasts of advance avionics and a fully indigenous Fly-by-Wire system which is comparable to the best in the world. It is capable of air-to-air refuelling, and in the ongoing contract, its airborne radar will eventually be replaced by an indigenous Uttam Radar. The aircraft is capable of carrying a variety of conventional and precision weapons. भारतीय वायुसेना को पूरा विश्वास है कि एक बार ऑपरेशनलाइज्ड होने के बाद यह एक बहुत ही सक्षम विमान होगा। But there are some issues that primarily relate to the availability of the aero engine, delayed deliveries and HAL's ability to maintain the required production rate."

2.19 The Air Force representative further submitted the following-

".....Our present inventory of airborne early warning aircraft largely consists of limited of legacy Awacs and three indigenously developed Netra aircraft..... However, we have already initiated a proposal to procure six more aircrafts and in order to meet the training requirements, another project for leasing a flight refuelling aircraft is currently under negotiations. The good part here is that thanks to the sustained commitment of the air force and the DRDO, the nation today is capable of developing mission system of such specialized platform making it one of very few countries in the world to do so. Capitalizing on this achievement, IAF has already initiated two programmes of six air borne early warning aircraft each and one for a special role aircraft. All these projects will have an indigenous mission systems. When it comes to airlifting capabilities, हमारी कैपेबिलिटी काफी बेहतर है। The majority of our strategic and tactical airlift platforms are contemporary and capable of meeting the operational requirements of both inter and intra theatre. During the no war no peace situation in Eastern Ladakh, this capability was evident. जब बहुत ही कम समय में भारतीय वायुसेना was able to deploy the required force level in the area of

operations and ensure deterrence through posturing. आईएल 76, डोर्नियर और एएन 32 हमारे लेगेसी फ्लीट्स में हैं। इसमें डोर्नियर को हम अपग्रेड कर रहे हैं और बाकियों को रिप्लेस करने की प्रोसेस शुरू हो चुकी है, जो कि मीडियम ट्रांसपोर्ट एयरक्राफ्ट प्रोजेक्ट का पार्ट है। In heli lift category, we have a diverse inventory of combat as well as air lift capability. इनमें एएलएच, मार्क फोर और प्रचंड इंडीजिनिसली डेवलप्ड कांबैट एयरक्राफ्ट्स हैं। मी 17, चेतक और चीता हमारे लेगेसी फ्लीट्स में हैं। मीडियम लिफ्ट को इनहेंस करने के लिए ऑलरेडी मी 17 का एक अपग्रेड प्रोग्राम चल रहा है। इवेंचुअली जब इन जहाजों को रिप्लेस किया जाएगा तो एक और इंडीजिनस प्रोग्राम से किया जाएगा। This is currently at the design stage. Similarly, the indigenous light utility helicopter जो भी एचएएल की तरफ से डिजाइन हो रहा है, वह चेतक, चीता और चीतल हेलीकॉप्टर्स को रिप्लेस करेगा। In the contemporary battlefield, the surface to air guided weapons plays a very important role. In this area, आईएएफ की इंडक्शन और अपग्रेडेशन योजना एक प्लान्ड वे में इंप्लीमेंट की जा रही है। अपग्रेडेशन व स्वदेशी के समाहित प्लान की वजह से इस कैपेबिलिटी में स्टेडी इंप्रूवमेंट हो रहा है। जैसा कि आप देख सकते हैं, both in numbers in technology, the legacy systems will eventually get phased out and majority of the surface to air weapon which should be replacing them will be of indigenous origin and for the very first time, the Indian private sector will also be involved in the production.”

AatmaNirbhar Bharat

The IAF actively supports the national vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and has been making efforts to reach out to the industries, MSMEs, start ups and academia. It has been an endeavour of the IAF to avail various schemes launched by Gol and provide impetus to the process of self reliance in Defence Manufacturing . IAF as always have progressed further on its path of indigenization . In order to fully exploit the capacity and capability of the Indian industry, IAF has fielded certain challenging cases under the Make procedure and these, in the coming times, would ensure continuance of induction of new technologies developed through indigenous resources.

2.20 During oral evidence on the issue of Aatmanirbharta, the representative of Air For submitted as under:

“.....When it comes to Aatmanirbharta, IAF stress with self-reliance goes back to 1958 when Kanpur I was conceived and built at Air Force Station Kanpur. This was followed by the production of AVRO the first of which was again built by IAF in 1961. Thereafter, from Marut to Tejas, Dhruv to Prachand,

भारतीय वायु सेना आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध रही है।

“Apart from this, pathbreaking AVRO model eventually led to the first ever in country production of a light transport aircraft the C295 by private sector. As on date, the contract is progressing on schedule and IAF is leading a multi-disciplinary indigenous project monitoring team that is following up and monitoring the indigenized effort by Airbus industry. This project would provide a major boost to the country’s aerospace sector with over 15,000 high skilled jobs and in additional 10,000 jobs in the next ten years.

There has been a focus effort to engage with the private sector as well. As on date, two major ground based system, the close end weapon system and the high power radars have been contracted through private industry and they will be inducted in the air force starting in 2026. Along with the various projects under the ambit of the defence initiative organisation, the IAF has been conducting programmes like Mehar Baba competition and Drone Shakti for incentivising homegrown talent.

Similar attention has been paid in the domain of automation and digitisation. Apart from the operationalisation of its network centring capabilities, enterprise level drives have been made in the area of techno-logistics, e-maintenance and automated planning systems. Thus, partnering the Government’s digital India initiative. It is the universal fact that the airborne system are the most complex to design, develop and certify. At the same time, there is no alternative to indigenisation. IAF’s persistent effort over the years are slowly bearing fruits with multiple aerial platform weapon systems, sensors and ground based systems already being either produced in the country or in various stages of development.

As an important element of national power, IAF regularly utilizes its material and human resources towards nation building and soft power projection. Its inherent characteristics of flexibility, mobility reach and responsiveness enables IAF to react to any crisis situation as the default first responder.”

Force Level

2.21 On the issue of **depletion in squadron strength**, the Ministry apprised the Committee that the number of fighter squadrons has reduced in the recent years due to phasing out of ageing variants of MiG-21, MiG-23 & MiG-27 aircraft. The shortage in number of fighter squadrons is being addressed through multi-pronged approaches to minimize the impact.

2.22 On a query regarding combat capabilities of Tejas, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

“IAF has received and operationalized two squadrons of Tejas Mk1 ac. The aircraft is being employed for operational roles and participated in the recently concluded international exercise Tarang Shakti.

(a) IAF has contracted for procurement of 83 LCA MK 1A and the deliveries were planned to commence from February, 2024 onwards. Tejas Mk-1A programme has been delayed due to design & development issues. HAL has been asked to increase the production of Tejas. IAF has also progressed as case for procurement of additional 97 LCA Mk IA aircraft for which AoN was accorded and RFP was issued. The CNC is under progress. With these acquisitions, IAF will have 220 LCA Mk-I & Mk-IA ac.

(b) In addition, Tejas Mk 2 which is under design and development, will be a day and night capable, all weather multirole combat aircraft with adequate self defence capability to operate in a dense and hostile AD environment. The aircraft would be a potent platform designed around a higher thrust engine, better performance metrics featuring an integral Unified Electronic Warfare Suite (UEWS) for survivability, new Digital Flight Control Computer (DFCC) and improved maintainability compared to the LCA Mk 1/1A. LCA Mk 2 is intended to replace Mirage 2000, MiG 29 and Jaguar aircraft of IAF.

2.23 On the issue of combat capabilities of Tejas, the Ministry representative submitted the following:

“(a) The HAL Tejas is an indigenous single-engine, fourth-generation, multirole, light fighter aircraft designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency in collaboration with Aircraft Research and Design Centre of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. It came from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, which began in the 1980s to replace India’s ageing MiG-21 fighters.

- (b) Tejas is a light Weight Swing Role Multirole Aircraft, it is one of the smallest and lightest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft of its class. Extensive use of advanced composites in the airframe give it a high strength to weight ratio, a long fatigue life and a low radar signature.
- (c) The aircraft is powered by GE 404 Engine and is an amalgamation of contemporary concepts and technologies such as relaxed static stability, Fly-by-wire flight control system, advanced NVG compliant glass cockpit, Hands on Throttle and Stick (HOTAS) controls, integrated digital avionics systems and advanced composite materials airframe. The design of composite wings and the Digital Fly by Wire Control System are acknowledged as one of the best in the world.
- (d) Tejas is a contemporary aircraft which has now stabilized and integrated into IAF's Op plans. The aircraft's weapon deliveries are very accurate for already integrated weapons. Further, a variety of long range stand-off precision weapons are being integrated on the platform to increase its versatility. Integration of these weapons would further enhance the Op potential of the ac.
- (e) **Combat capabilities of Tejas.** The aircraft is equipped with critical operational capabilities like Air to Air Refuelling, Multi-Mode Radar, Helmet Mounted Display Systems, Electro Optical/Laser Designation Pod, State of the art Nav-Attack System, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missiles, Advanced All Aspect Close Combat Missiles. The Advanced Air to Surface Weapons in Conventional and Stand-off Precision Categories are currently under integration. The aircraft is designed on LRU concept which facilitates easy maintenance and isolated repair of faulty LRUs without affecting the aircraft's flight line availability. These capabilities enable the aircraft to be capable of executing all roles envisaged by any Air Force during contemporary air operations.
- (f) The advanced avionics, Nav Aids and landing systems coupled with Autopilot allow the aircraft to operate under low visibility conditions. With these capabilities, Tejas can easily be deployed at bases getting vacated by phasing out fighters from where regular ORP is envisaged.
- (g) **Replacement to ageing fighter fleet of IAF.** IAF has been long pursuing its fighter requirements to replace MiG 21s with LCA class of ac. Along with Tejas Mk I, Tejas Mk IA induction would replace the MiG 21 Bison ac of IAF. The Tejas Mk I are suitable replacements for the IAF in the Light Weight Fighter category.”

2.24 On a query regarding present status of induction of Tejas in IAF, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

“IAF has operationalised two Squadrons, including 32 fighters LCA Mk I and four twin seater ac. Four more twin seater ac are expected to be

inducted shortly. The cost for LCA Mk I aircraft IOC & FOC configuration (20 ac each) is Rs. 5077.95 Cr and Rs.6804.21 Cr respectively. IAF has contracted 83 x LCA Mk IA for Rs. 36,468.63 Cr excluding taxes and duties. IAF has also processed a case for procurement of additional 97 LCA Mk IA ac at an AoN cost of 65,848 Cr (CNC is under progress). With this, the IAF will have 220 Tejas (Mk I and Mk IA) ac.”

2.25 During the oral evidence, on squadrons strength, a representative of Air Force submitted as under-

“....This will be addressed in the long run by the timely induction of MRFA and LCA Mark II. Critical combat enablers like the Airborne early warning aircraft, flight refuelers and special electronic intelligence and surveillance are an integral element of modern day combat.”

Training

2.26 In regard to the number of authorized trainer aircraft/simulators and their existing strength, the Ministry apprised that Committee as under:

“Trainer Aircraft held by IAF currently include Basic Trainer Aircraft, Intermediate Jet Trainer and Advanced Jet Trainer. The strength to existing trainer aircraft is 238 as against the sanctioned strength of 368. Therefore, there is a net deficiency of 130 aircraft. All modern aircraft are complemented by simulators. There are a total of 14 Simulators for training aircraft.”

2.27 On this issue, the Ministry representative submitted the following: -

“Presently, IAF is deficient of Trainer Aircraft. The following measures have been taken to mitigate the deficiencies: -

- (a) Contract for 70 HTT-40 indigenous trainer aircraft has been signed with HAL and delivery is scheduled to start in September, 2025.
- (b) 36 additional HTT-40 will be procured after operationalization of these ac in IAF.

(c) Additionally, in the interim period, IAF is exploring the option of leasing Basic Trainer Aircraft.”

2.28 During oral evidence, on the issue of training and skill development, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

“IAF being a technology sensitive service, training and skill development of air warriors is integral to its human resource development. Towards this, there is a structured programme of professional military education in service process and skill based categorisation. IAF also exploits its professional reputation towards soft diplomacy by training personnel from friendly foreign countries. Technology being dynamic in nature, self reliance in testing and evaluation is equally important. This is done through the Indian Air Force aircraft system and testing establishment which also includes the Air Force Test Pilot School which is one of the only eighth globally recognized such institutions.

फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग एयरफोर्स की कोर रिक्वायरमेंट है। It follows a well structured three stage model. अगले साल से टर्बो ट्रेनर 40, जो कि इंटीजिनसली डेवलप्ड एयरक्रॉफ्ट है, इंडक्ट होना शुरू हो जाएगा। उसके बाद ट्रेनिंग दो एयरक्रॉफ्ट, तीन स्टेज पैटर्न में स्टेब्लाइज हो जाएगी। A lot of effort has been placed on the use of simulators for training. And here also, the hon. Members would be happy to note that most of the simulator that we are inducting now and in the future will be through indigenous sources. Apart from its own Air Force and command level exercise, IAF regularly conducts joint operational training with friendly nations and sister services. In the past IAF has conducted a number of transoceanic bilateral and multilateral exercises both within and outside the country. The recently concluded Tarangshakti exercise was the country’s first and largest ever multinational air exercise in the modern era. With nearly 30 nations participating, such exercise is not only contribute to air diplomacy, they also enhance deterrence by influencing adversaries.”

2.29 The Ministry through written reply apprised the Committee regarding **details of the training institutes for pilots in the Air Force** as under:

Sl. No.	Flying Training Establishment	Place
(a)	Air Force Academy	Dundigal
(b)	Fighter Training Wing	Hakimpet

(c)	Helicopter Training School	Hakimpet
(d)	Operational Conversion Unit A	Kalaikunda
(e)	Operational Conversion Unit B	Kalaikunda
(f)	Hawk Operational Training Squadron A	Bidar
(g)	Hawk Operational Training Squadron B	Bidar
(h)	Fixed Wing Training Flight	Yelahanka
(i)	112 Helicopter Unit	Yelehanka
(j)	Flying Instructor School	Tambaram
(k)	Basic Flying Training School	Prayagraj

2.30 The Ministry apprised the Committee regarding life span of existing trainer aircraft in tabular form as under:

Sl. No.	Trainer Aircraft	Details of Life Span
1	Hawk	Life of Hawk aircraft is 30 Years/100 Fatigue Index (FI)/6000 flying hours.
2	Kiran Mk I/IA	Total Technical Life is 8500 Air frame hours.
3	Kiran Mk II	Total Technical Life is 7500 Air frame hours.
4	PC 7 Mk II	Total Technical Life is 10000 Air frame hours/30000 landings

Night Landing Facility

2.31 In regard to the **total number of Air Force bases and number of Air Force bases having night landing facilities**, the Ministry apprised that Committee as under:

- (a) Presently, Indian Air Force has 52 operational Air Force bases. All can undertake military operational night landing.
- (b) Out of 52 operational IAF bases, Cat II lighting system is installed in 48 airfields. Udampur is provided with old lighting system. The remaining three operational IAF airfields (**Leh, Thoise & Barrackpore**) can also conduct limited night operations using Mobile Airfield Lighting System (MAFLS)/Gooseneck flares.

2.32 The Ministry also informed **reasons for not having night landing facilities at all bases** as under:

(a) Night landing facilities exists at all operational IAF bases for military aircraft flying.

(b) A new IAF airfield is under construction at Deesa. As part of MAFI project only TACAN has been installed at the base. Further, all the operational infrastructure including Nav aids would be installed in a phased manner. At present the night landing facility is **not available**.

Note: The night landing facilities at any airfield depends on operational requirement feasibility of conducting safe and regular night operations form that base. **Hence, while night landing facilities exists at all IAF bases for military aircraft flying,** civil aviation, which entails more stringent requirements may not be possible from those bases where the requirements are not met.

2.33 Further, the Ministry apprised the Committee regarding **measures taken or proposed to be taken for having night landing facilities at all the Air Force bases** as under:

(a) Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure (MAFI) project has been executed in two phases wherein Cat-II lighting system has been installed in 48 airfields.

(b) Udhampur is provided with old lighting system. The remaining three operational IAF airfields (**Leh, Thoise & Barrackpore**) can conduct limited night operations using Mobile Airfield Lighting System (MAFLS)/Gooseneck flares to undertake IAF operational night landing facility.

2.34 During oral evidence, on the usage of Air Force airfields, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

“In terms of operational infrastructure, आईएएफ के मार्डर्नाइजेशन ऑफ एयरफील्ड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोग्राम के अधीन सारी 52 एयरफील्ड्स माडर्न एयरफील्ड सिस्टम से इक्विपड कराई जा रही हैं। ऐज ऑन डेट हमारी सारी ऑपरेशनल एयरफील्ड नाइट आपरेशन्स के लिए सक्षम हैं। 39 of the airfield are operating as joint user airfield. क्रिटिकल एसेट्स के प्रोटेक्शन के लिए फॉरवर्ड एयरफील्ड में नेक्स्ट जेनरेशन हाडिल एयरक्रॉफ्ट शेल्टर का प्रोजेक्ट इंप्लीमेंट किया जा रहा है। Growth of civil aviation is being ensured through the flexible use of air space. The joint usage of the Air Force airfield along with some of the

advanced landing ground help in enhancing regional connectivity as part of Government UDAN scheme. All this in turn leads to significant financial and carbon emission saving. I would also like to inform the hon. Members that IAF is cognisant of the enormous human and material costs that are involved in military aviation and hence, pays great emphasis on aerospace safety. To complement its substantial flying effort, IAF has a comprehensive inbuilt safety programme that works towards prevention and minimising accident. जैसा कि आप देख सकते हैं, these efforts have paid dividends in the form of a steady decline in the accidents.”

Accidents

2.35 IAF Aircraft accidents during the Thirteenth Defence Plan period is as under:

(a) No. of accidents during Thirteenth Defence Plan period.

Sl. No.	FY	Accidents
1	2017-18	8
2	2018-19	11
3	2019-20	3
4	2020-21	3
5	2021-22	9

(b) Details of Accidents during Thirteenth Defence Plan period

Sl. No.	AC Type	Date of Occurrence	Reason
(i)	MiG-21	10.05.2017	FOD + TD + HE (S)
(ii)	Su-30	23.05.2017	HE (A)
(iii)	ALH	04.07.2017	HE (A)
(iv)	MiG-23	06.07.2017	HE (A)
(v)	Kiran	28.09.2017	HE (A)
(vi)	Mi-17	06.10.2017	HE (A)
(vii)	Kiran	24.11.2017	HE (A)
(viii)	Hawk	20.03.2018	HE (A)

(ix)	Mi-17	03.04.2018	HE (A)
(x)	Cheetah	23.05.2018	HE (A)
(xi)	Jaguar	05.06.2018	TD
(xii)	MiG-21	18.07.2018	HE (A)
(xiii)	MiG-27	04.09.2018	HE(S)
(xiv)	Kiran	28.11.2018	HE (A)
(xv)	Jaguar	28.01.2019	HE + TD
(xvi)	MiG-27	12.02.2019	TD
(xvii)	Hawk	19.02.2019	HE (A)
(xviii)	MiG-21	08.03.2019	BS
(xix)	MiG-27	31.03.2019	TD
(xx)	AN-32	03.06.2019	HE (A)
(xxi)	Su-30	08.08.2019	HE (A)
(xxii)	MiG-21	25.09.2019	TD
(xxiii)	MiG-29	08.05.2020	TD
(xxiv)	MiG-21	05.01.2021	TD
(xxv)	MiG-21	17.03.2021	HE (A)
(xxvi)	MiG-21	20.05.2021	HE + TD
(xxvii)	ALH	07.06.2021	TD
(xxviii)	Kiran	23.06.2021	FOD
(xxix)	MiG-21	25.08.2021	TD
(xxx)	Mirage	21.10.2021	UI
(xxxi)	Jaguar	06.11.2021	HE(A)
(xxxii)	Mi-17	18.11.2021	HE (A)
(xxxiii)	Mi-17	08.12.2021	HE (A)
(xxxiv)	MiG-21	24.12.2021	HE (A)

FOD: Foreign object Damage	TD: Technical Defect
HE(S): Human Error (Servicing)	HE(A): Human Error (Aircrew)
BS: Bird Strike	UI: Under investigation

2.36 The Ministry informed the Committee that 34 Inquiries have been conducted into these accidents during the period.

The Ministry also informed that the recommendations by these Inquiry committees review the process, procedure, training, equipment, culture, operations, maintenance and administration holistically with intent to prevent recurrence of an accident.

The Ministry further informed that all remedial measures stipulated by Chief of the Air Staff remarks are binding and actioned. Most have been actioned while a few are under implementation.

The Ministry further submitted that the rate has declined from a peak of 0.93 (2000-2005) to 0.27 (2017- 2022) and further declined to 0.20 (2020-2024).

Manpower

2.37 In regard to the the required and the existing manpower (officers and PBOR) in Air Force and initiatives taken during Thirteenth and Fourteenth Defence Plans, the Ministry apprised that Committee as under:

“Officers

(a) As on 01 Oct 24, data in respect of officers (except Med/Dental branch) was 11,916 against an establishment of 12,929 leading to a deficiency of 1,013.

(b) The induction plans have been revamped so as to gradually bring the strength at par with the sanctioned establishment. IAF selection process comprises of AFCAT, AFSB evaluation, Computerised Pilot Selection System (when applicable) and stringent medical criteria. While adequate candidates register for joining IAF in the officer cadre, total number of candidates who eventually get commissioned varies. Concerted effort are in place to address the shortfall at the earliest.

(c) Efforts are in place to increase the induction of officers which includes establishing a dedicated department named ‘DISHA’ by Indian Air force as the tag line, a focused Digital Publicity campaign is being undertaken on all social media platforms. The IAF has come up with a new concept of installing Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion (FCPs) at prominent locations across the country. FCP is a technologically advanced platform to provide information about the IAF and its career opportunities in a trendy, logical and appealing manner. In addition, Air Force participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Publicity stalls at various forums including youth festivals, career conclaves, youth related exhibitions etc. that are set up from time to time for benefit of the target youth. Two customized buses with information displayed about IAF and consisting of flying simulator in each bus, visit various educational institutes across the county to motivate students. These initiatives have borne fruit and there has been a steady increase in number of youth getting commissioned.

Airmen

(d) As on 01Oct 24 strength of airmen including Agniveervayu in IAF was 1,39,876 against an establishment of 1,46,030 leading to a deficiency of 6,154. Additionally, 2,317 trainees including 1,982 Agniveervau are undergoing training a various training institutes. Recruitment in IAF is an ongoing process based on scheduled and unscheduled discharges.”

2.38 On a query regarding present ratio between pilot & cockpit, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

(a) The Pilot to Seat ration for Air Force Standing Establishment Committee (AFSEC), as approved in 1991 and utilized for establishment reviews of flying units by AFSEC is as given below:-

<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Pilot to Seat Ratio</u>
<u>Fighter Aircraft</u>	1.25 :1
<u>Transport Aircraft</u>	1.5:1
<u>Helicopters</u>	0.75:1 <u>[For Chetak/Cheetah and Mi- 26]</u> 1:1 <u>[For Mi-8 and Mi-17]</u>

(b) A study of open source information (Internet) brings out that USAF uses ratio of 2:1 for pilots and Flt Engrs of KC-10, pilots of C-5, C-130 in airlift role and C-130 in ELINT role. 2.5:1 is used for Flt Engrs and Load Masters of C-5 which is their largest transport aircraft. C-9 aircraft in ambulance role is provided crew @ 3:1 as it is expected to be used at greater intensity under difficult situations. It is also learn from open sources that USAF/ US Govt are considering further enhancing crew ratios beyond 2:1 for their AAR fleet. The Pilot to Seat ration in the Pakistan Air Force for across the spectrum category of aircraft, irrespective of its role is 2.5:1.

2.39 In regard to bridge capability gaps, a representative of Air Force submitted as under:

“I conclude the review by assuring the hon. Members that IAF is fully committed to meeting its tasks. Where applicable, the capability gaps are being addressed through flexible operational planning and engagement with the Ministry of Defence.”

Women empowerment

2.40 During the deliberations on women empowerment, a representative of Air Force submitted as under:

“IAF strongly believes in women empowerment with women serving in all branches and roles including combat. Women officers are also commanding combat units. IAF today has the maximum number of women officers comprising 14 percent of its officers strength. With the induction of Agniveer Vayu women the strength of women in IAF is on an increasing trend.”

Preparedness against Spying

2.41 On the issue regard incidences of spying surfaced in Air Force, the Ministry submitted as under:

“That four cases have surfaced in the last five years. All the involved personnel have been dismissed from IAF. Amongst them, one of the case has been handed over to civil police – he is undergoing trial in a civil court.

2.42 The Committee desires to know the measures taken to check spying in Air Force, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

(a) The espionage cases occurred due to over-indulgence on social media platform by the individuals which led to their targeting by the Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs).

(b) A policy on Cyber Security and Usage of Social Media was formulated and disseminated to the environment. The policy severely restricts the use of smartphones in work places as well as on usage of social media.

(c) Regular checks are being conducted to ensure compliance of the policy.

(d) Awareness campaign/ lectures on Cyber Security are being conducted on modus operandi of PIOs to sensitise the personnel.

(e) Appropriate guidelines and advisories are being issued for awareness of the personnel.

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

2.43 During oral evidence, on human assistance and disaster relief operations, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

“These would include human assistance and disaster relief operation in aid of civil authorities, as well as supporting infrastructure development in remote areas. Such HADR Missions are not restricted to within the country but are also carried out across continents. The large number of HADR Mission for swift airlift of COVID-19 vaccines to friendly nations help enhance the soft power image of the country”

CHAPTER III

NAVY

The Committee are happy to learn that the Indian Navy has been playing a maritime leadership role in the Indian Ocean Region due to its multi-dimensional capabilities and active presence in the region. The environment in India's maritime neighbourhood is dynamic, with increasing instabilities, deepening geopolitical and ethnic faultiness, growing military capabilities and wide range of security challenges. These pose a combination of conventional and sub-conventional threats emanating from the seas. These challenges require the Indian Navy to remain effective across the entire competition –conflict continuum, while constantly reshaping itself to meet future challenges. Providing humanitarian assistance during disasters is another vital role played by Indian Navy.

3.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Navy for the year 2024-25, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure for Navy during the last five years including 2023-24, separately for Capital and Revenue segments alongwith projection and allocation in the BE 2024-25. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	27,086.29	22,211.71	28,737.09	22,786.71	22,387.31
2020-21	32,237.96	22,934.75	28,379.84	23,347.69	23,166.05
2021-22	34,256.83	23,360.68	30,069.08	23,925.91	23,834.99
2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53
2024-25	40,649.26	32,778.73	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	37,220.98	23,156.43	40,123.18	26,156.43	27,446.68
2020-21	45,268.31	26,688.28	51,769.28	37,542.88	41,666.76
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48
2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62
2024-25	62,545.98	62,545.98	-	-	-

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of Navy. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2024-25, against Revenue Head, projection of Navy was Rs. 40,649.26 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 32,778.73 crore, with a reduction of Rs. 7870.53 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2023-24, under Revenue head, Navy's projection was Rs. 36,776.65 crore and allocation made was Rs. 30,734.58 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 35,150.53 crore, However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2023-24 was Rs. 34,261.53 crore.

Capital Budget

The Capital budget cardinally provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2024-25, Navy's projection was Rs. 62,545.98 crore and the same has been allocated. In RE 2023-24, the projection of Navy was Rs. 51,283.98 crore and allocation made was Rs. 51,052.18 crore. However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2023-24 was Rs. 50,762.62 crore.

3.3 During examination of Demand for Grants 2024-25, a representative of Indian Navy, through a Power Point presentation before the Committee on budget submitted the following information:

“Sir, lastly moving to budget review, वर्ष 2024-25 में इंडियन नेवी का कुल बजट 90 हजार, 998.75 करोड़ रुपये है। स्लाइड में प्रदर्शित है कि नेवी का बजट

पिछले कुछ सालों से लगातार बढ़ रहा है। इस साल नेवी का कैपिटल बजट 61 हजार 193 करोड़ रुपये है। Major share increase in Navy's overall budget has been devoted towards the substantial increase in capital expenditure, जो कि नेवी के आधुनिकीकरण और कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट की दृष्टि से काफी महत्वपूर्ण और दूरगामी कदम है। फोर्स मॉडर्नाइजेशन के इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का भी ग्रोथ हो रहा है, जो यहां इनक्रीज्ड बजट एलोकेशन में प्रदर्शित है। नेवी के डे टू डे रनिंग और मेन्टेनेंस पर होने वाला खर्च रेवेन्यू बजट से कवर होता है। इस साल नेवी के ओवरऑल बजट में कैपिटल टू रेवेन्यू रेशियो करीब 67:33 मेनटेन किया गया है। In future, similar rate of growth in budgetary allocations is considered essential for the Navy to execute its modernization plans. हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि भारत की नौसेना आने वाले वर्षों में और भी सशक्त और मजबूत होगी।”

Percentage share of Navy Budget

3.4. The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Navy budget both in Revenue and Capital segments out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years and share of allocation of Capital and Revenue outlay for the Thirteenth Defence Plan and Fourteenth Defence Plan. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

Year	BE (Defence Service Estimates*)	Navy (Revenue)	%age share	Navy (Capital)	%age share	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2019-20	3,05,296.07	22,211.71	7.28	23,156.43	7.58	45,368.14	14.86
2020-21	3,23,053.00	22,934.75	7.10	26,688.28	8.26	49,623.03	15.36
2021-22	3,47,088.28	23,360.68	6.73	33,253.55	9.58	56,614.23	16.31
2022-23	3,85,370.15	25,406.42	6.59	47,590.99	12.35	72,997.41	18.94
2023-24	4,32,720.14	32,284.20	7.46	52,804.75	12.20	85,088.95	19.66

*DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget

3.5. The Ministry have informed that the 13th Defence Plan was foreclosed in view of the formulation of the new joint capability development process termed as Integrated Capability Development System (ICADS).

Notwithstanding, all procurements are being carried out in consonance with the long term requirements which are part of LTIPP (2012-2027). However, actual capital procurements are carried out on the basis of the two-year roll on Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). Details of percentage share of Capital and Revenue allocation for Navy out of Defence Services Estimates for each year and as a whole during the period of Thirteenth Plan are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Defence Service Estimates*	Navy (Revenue)	%age share	Navy (Capital)	%age share	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2017-18	2,59,261.90#	18,493.82	7.13	19,348.16	7.46	37,841.98	14.59
2018-19	2,79,305.32#	19,571.37	7.01	20,848.16	7.46	40,419.53	14.47
2019-20	3,05,296.07	22,211.71	7.28	23,156.43	7.58	45,368.14	14.86
2020-21	3,23,053.00	22,934.75	7.10	26,688.28	8.26	49,623.03	15.36
2021-22	3,47,088.28	23,360.68	6.73	33,253.55	9.58	56,614.23	16.31
Total	15,14,004.57	1,06,572.33	7.04	123,294.58	8.14	2,29,866.91	15.18

*DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget

Excludes MF & ECHS

3.6 It can be seen that there is an increase in percentage share of revenue budget of Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates from 7.28 per cent in 2019-20 to 7.46 per cent in 2023-24. At the same time, there is an increase in capital budget share from 7.58 percent in 2019-20 to 12.20 percent in 2023-24. There is an increase in absolute terms under both revenue and capital heads during the same time period.

3.7 On the issue of adjustments were made due to reduced allocation in Revenue and Capital Budget, the Committee were apprised through a written submission as under :

Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Navy (including Joint Staff) during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as follows:-

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	27,086.29	22,211.71	28,737.09	22,786.71	22,387.31
2020-21	32,237.96	22,934.75	28,379.84	23,347.69	23,166.05
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2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	37,220.98	23,156.43	40,123.18	26,156.43	27,446.68
2020-21	45,268.31	26,688.28	51,769.28	37,542.88	41,666.76
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48
2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62

3.8. It may be seen from the data provided above that there has been consistent increase in the allocations/expenditure in respect of Navy under both Revenue and Capital Budget from FY 2019-20. It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it can be observed that in most of the years the actual expenditure was lesser than the allocation at RE stage.

Budget for Modernization

3.9 The Committee were apprised that in the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for Committed Liabilities (CL) and New Schemes (NS). In the FY 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 48,113.90 Crore was allocated at BE stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. In RE 2023-24, an additional allocation of Rs. 287.37 Crore was made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) over BE 23-24 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head (which includes Committed Liabilities and New Schemes). Further, earmarking between Committed Liabilities and New Schemes is carried out by Service HQs based on prioritization among the projects/schemes and the progress of contractual milestones. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 48,677.92 Crore was incurred in FY 2023-24. No surrender of funds has been done in FY 2023-24 under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

3.10 In BE 2024-25, an allocation of Rs. 58,700 Crore has been made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head (which includes Committed Liabilities and New Schemes), against which expenditure of Rs. 15,481.63 Crore has been done till September, 2024.

Surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Revised Estimate/ Modified Appropriation stage of current financial year 2024-25.

(i) **Supplementary FY 2022-23:** No additional funds had been sought by Navy in Supplementary under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head in FY 2022-23.

(ii) **Supplementary FY 2023-24:** No additional funds had been sought by Navy in Supplementary under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head in FY 2023-24.

(iii) Details of additional requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection made in RE over BE	RE Allocation
2022-23	45,749.81	45,018.22	-	45,018.22
2023-24	48,113.90	48,541.06	427.16	48,401.27

(iv) It may be seen from the table given above that no additional funds were sought by Navy in RE 2022-23 over BE 2022-23. In RE 2023-24, Jt Staff had been allocated additional funds to the tune of Rs. 287.37 Crore over BE 2023-24 under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head through re-appropriation from Other Than Capital Acquisition Head. However, no additional funds were allocated to Navy over BE 2023-24.

(v) Details of requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2022-23	45,018.22	44,894.24	-	44,894.24

2023-24	48,401.27	48,636.87	235.60	48,636.87
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(vi) The Committee may be apprised that the allocated funds were optimally utilized and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Indigenisation

3.11 During oral evidence, on indigenisation, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

“इस समय कुल 65 शिप्स और सबमरीन अंडर कंस्ट्रक्शन हैं। ये अगले कुछ समय में नेवी में इंडक्ट कर ली जाएंगी। इसके अलावा नेवी को स्लाइड पर दिखाए गए इंडक्शन्स की एक्सेप्टेंस ऑफ नेसेसिटी फ्रॉम गवर्नमेंट दी जा चुकी है और इनका निर्माण अगले कुछ समय में शुरू होने वाला है। इंडियन नेवी ने देश की तकनीकी और औद्योगिक आत्मनिर्भरता की तरफ अनवरत कोशिश जारी रखी है। इंडीजिनस शिप बिल्डिंग के विकास में नेवी की प्रमुख भूमिका रही है। पहली इंडीजेनस नेवल शिप 60 के दशक में तैयार हुआ था और आज तक हमने देश में बने करीब 130 शिप्स और सबमरीन्स को नौसेना में शामिल किया है। आज भारत विश्व के गिने-चुने देशों में से एक है, जिसके पास एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर से लेकर सबमरीन बनाने तक की कैपेसिटी है। आज की तारीख तक 63 नेवल शिप्स और सबमरीन्स भारतीय शिपयार्ड में अंडर कंस्ट्रक्शन हैं। 31 ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट्स को गवर्नमेंट सैंक्शन मिल चुका है। एविएशन के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण प्रोजेक्ट्स जैसे कि TEDBF और DBMRH पर काम चल रहा है। भारत सरकार के MAKe, IDEX और डीडीएफ स्कीम के तहत 187 प्रोजेक्ट्स पर काम चल रहा है। स्ट्रैटेजिक पॉइंट ऑफ व्यू से शिप बिल्डिंग की नैशनल इकोनॉमी में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। शिप बिल्डिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स का इफेक्ट नैशनल इकोनॉमी के लिए एक सुदृढ़ इन्स्ट्रुमिलेंट साबित होता है। विक्रांत के निर्माण के दौरान For example, during the manufacturing of Vikrant, 4800 Cochin Shipyard personnel engaged in the construction of Vikrant, more

than 11,500 personnel were employed in 544 ancillary industries including 129 MSMEs across 616 States.”

3.12 Further, as desired, a representative apprised the Committee as under:

“The process of indigenization of Indian Navy started much before. If you look at ships, there are three components, that is, float, move, and fight. So as far as float component is concerned, it is 100 per cent there. We are able to construct ships so that they float. And largely movement also, it is about 80-90 per cent, I would say, except for gas turbine and some engines, which are still being imported. So, move component is quite a bit. But it is the fight component that major effort towards indigenization is on, for which we are still dependent on weapon systems from outside.”

Planning and Procurement

3.13 Ministry was asked to provide the **details of the various vessels presently under construction at various shipyards including their original targets, revised targets and also cost incurred till date**, in this regard, the Ministry in its written replies submitted as under:

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks
1	Diving Support Vessel (DSV), (ex-HSL)	02	Sep 21	Ship 1- Oct/ Nov 24	₹ 1542.82	
			Mar 22	Ship 2- Feb 25		
2	Additional P-1135.6 Follow-On Ships, ex-Russia	02	May 23	Ship 1- Nov 24	₹ 5957.69	
			Nov 23	Ship 2- Mar 25		
3	Additional P-1135.6 Follow-On Ships, (ex-GSL)	02	Oct 26	Ship 1- Oct 26	₹ 6827.29	
			Apr 27	Ship 2- Apr 27		
4	Anti-Submarine	08	Oct 22	Ship 1- Oct/ Nov	₹ 3182.39	

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks
	Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), (ex-GRSE)			24		
			Oct 23	Ship 2 - Mar 25		
			Oct 23	Ship 3 - Apr 25		
			Oct 24	Ship 4 - Oct 25		
			Oct 24	Ship 5 - Oct 25		
			Oct 25	Ship 6 - Feb 26		
			Oct 25	Ship 7 - Feb 26		
			Oct 26	Ship 8 - Oct 26		
5	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), (ex-CSL)	08	Oct 22	Ship 1 - Apr 25	₹ 2676.91	
			Oct 23	Ship 2 - Apr 26		
			Oct 23	Ship 3 - Apr 26		
			Oct 24	Ship 4 - Apr 27		
			Oct 24	Ship 5 - Apr 27		
			Oct 25	Ship 6 - Apr 28		
			Oct 25	Ship 7 - Apr 28		
			Oct 26	Ship 8 - Apr 29		
6	Diving Support Craft (DSC), (ex-TRSL)	05	Jan 23	Ship 1 - Jan 25	₹ 66.73	
			Apr 23	Ship 2 - Apr 25		
			Jul 23	Ship 3 - Jul 25		
			Oct 23	Ship 4 - Oct 25		
			Jan 24	Ship 5 -		

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks	
				Jan 26			
7	Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), (ex-L&T)	02	May 25 Feb 26	NA	₹ 130.55		
8	Cadet Training Ship (CTS), (ex-L&T)	03	Sep 26 Mar 27 Sep 27		₹ 706.85		
9	Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), (ex-GSL)	07	Sep 26 Mar 27 Sep 27 Mar 28 Sep 28 Mar 29 Sep 29		₹ 1113.26		
10	Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), (ex-GRSE)	04	Nov 26 May 27 Nov 27 May 28		₹ 759.49		
11	Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV), (ex-CSL)	06	Mar 27 Mar 28 Mar 29 Mar 30 Mar 31 Mar 32		₹ 2882.70		
12	Fleet Support Ship (FSS), (ex-HSL)	05	Aug 27 Jun 28 Apr 29 Feb 30 Dec 30		₹ 4086.15		
13	Project-15B (Destroyers), (ex- MDL)	04	Ship 4- Feb 25		---	₹ 3991.05	Nov 24 (targeted)
14	Project 17A (Frigates) (ex-MDL &	7	Ship 1 - Nov 24 Ship 2 -		NA	₹ 19274.63 (MDL)	Ship 1 is undergoing Contractual

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks
	GRSE)		Feb 25			Sea Trials (CST), delivery in Nov 24.
			Ship 3 - Aug 25			
			Ship 4 - Feb 26			
			Ship 5 - Feb 25	NA	₹ 13180.65 (GRSE)	
			Ship 6 - Apr 26			
			Ship 7 - Aug 26			
15	Survey Vessel Large (SVL), (ex-GRSE)	04	Ship 3 - Oct 22	Feb 25	₹ 664.72	28 months
			Ship 4 - Apr 23	May 25		25 months
16	Project-75 Submarines (ex-MDL)	06	SM # 6 – Dec 17	SM # 6 – Dec 24	₹ 3900.00	Two CCS revisions and two provisional Delivery Period (DP) extensions accorded.

SM – Submarine

MDL – Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

GRSE – Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited

GSL – Goa Shipyard Limited

HSL – Hindustan Shipyard Limited

L&T – Larsen & Toubro Limited

TRSL – Titagarh Rail Systems Limited

3.14 The Committee desire to know reasons for dependency on OEMs in respect of Russian original fleet, a representative of Navy apprised the Committee as under:

“As far as maintenance of aviation assets of the Navy is concerned, most of them belong to Russian origin of aircraft, that is AN-32 or, say, the MiG-29, etc. There is an embargo on going to the OEM, but there is an Empowered Committee

constituted by the Ministry of Defence which allows case-by-case waiver for all these particular cases, and I head that particular Empowered Committee. It has happened twice now. It is the second year we are given waivers for maintenance and going abroad and either purchasing spares or going to the OEM.”

MANPOWER

3.15 On the issue of human resource in the Indian Navy, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

“इंडियन नेवी में 10 हजार 143 अधिकारी, 64 हजार 770 सेलर्स, 9 हजार 413 अग्निवीर और 32 हजार 171 डिफेंस सिविलियन्स हैं। सारे कार्मिक अपने कार्य के लिए पूरी तरह ट्रेन्ड हैं और नेवी की कॉम्बैटिवनेस व ऑपरेशनल प्रेपेयरनेस में मटेन करने में पूर्णतः सक्षम हैं। नौसेना अधिकारियों की प्रारंभिक ट्रेनिंग इंडियन नेवल अकादमी में होती है। सेलर्स की ट्रेनिंग आईएनएस चिल्का में होती है। इससे आगे की प्रोफेशनल ट्रेनिंग उनकी ब्रांच और ट्रेड के हिसाब से अलग-अलग प्रोफेशनल स्कूल्स में की जाती है। इंडियन नेवी पड़ोसी और मित्र देशों के नौसैनिकों को भी ट्रेनिंग देती है। अब तक करीब 50 देशों के 20 हजार से ज्यादा प्रोफेशनल्स को ट्रेनिंग दी जा चुकी है। सालाना ऐसे करीब 1 हजार ट्रेनीज की ट्रेनिंग भारत में होती है।“

3.16 In regards to women empowerment in Navy, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

“सर, नारी शक्ति को बढ़ावा देने के कदम में इंडियन नेवी ने कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं। As on date, we have 636 women officers and 1321 women Agniveers. हम सभी के लिए यह बहुत ही गौरव का विषय है कि इंडियन नेवी की दो वूमन अधिकारी अभी नाविका सागर परिक्रमा अभियान पर हैं, जिसमें वे पूरे विश्व का सर्कम नैवीकेशन एक सेलबोट में कर रही हैं। इस दौरान 21 हजार 600 नॉटिकल मीलस की दूरी तय की जाएगी और यह अभियान करीब 8 महीनों में पूरा होगा।“

3.17 Further, as desired, a representative apprised the Committee as under:

“As far as the women empowerment in the Navy is concerned, I think Navy is the only service which has opened all branches for service. So that is a major improvement. And currently, if I am not mistaken, there are almost about 814 officers and almost about 87 in the Indian Naval Academy. We are seeing a marked improvement in the number of women officers which are joining the Indian Navy.”

Operational Preparedness and Threat Perception

3.18 During the oral evidence, on the issue of operational preparedness as well as the threat perception through power point presentation, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

“भारत के नेशनल इंटरस्ट की सेफ्टी और सिक्योरिटी के लिए जरूरी है कि हम मेरिटाइम स्पेसिस में शांति और सुरक्षा बनाए रखें। हमारी मेरिटाइम स्पेसिस की शांति और सुरक्षा को दो तरह के थ्रेट हैं, थ्रेट फ्रॉम ट्रेडिशनल सोर्सिस, जैसे चीन और पाकिस्तान, नॉन-ट्रेडिशनल सोर्सिस हैं जैसे पाइरेसी, ड्रोन अटैक्स, मिसाइल अटैक्स, ह्यूमेन ड्रग्स ट्रेफिकिंग, इल्लिगल फिशिंग आदि।

भारतीय नौसेना के ऑपरेशन्स इन सभी थ्रेट्स को मिटिगेट करने के लिए कंडक्ट किए जाते हैं। भारतीय नौसेना का एरिया ऑफ आपरेशन पश्चिम में अफ्रीकन कंटीनेंट के पश्चिमी तट से पूर्व में ऑस्ट्रेलिया तक फैला हुआ है। यह हिस्सा दो भागों में बांटा गया है, पश्चिम का हिस्सा वैस्टर्न नेवल कमांड और पूर्वी हिस्सा ईस्टर्न नेवल कमांड के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आता है। मेरिटाइम स्पेसिस इन्कलूडिंग कोस्टल एरियाज़ को 24/7 सतत निगरानी में रखने के लिए नौसेना के जहाज, एयरक्राफ्ट्स, ऑटोनोमस एयरक्राफ्ट्स हमेशा तैनात रहते हैं। इनके अलावा नौसेना के सबमेरिन्स की डिप्लायमेंट भी एक सोचे समझे प्लान के अनुसार स्पेसिफिक एरियाज़ में किया जाता है।

हाल ही में कुछ महत्वपूर्ण डेवलपमेंट जैसे लांग रेंज एमक्यू9बी आरपीए का इंडक्शन, नेशनल मेरिटाइम डोमेन अवेयरनेस प्रोग्राम का सैंक्शन और स्पेस बेस सर्वलेंस कैपेबिलिटीज में नई गतिविधियों से हमारी सर्वलेंस कैपेबिलिटीज को काफी बल मिला है। इस वास्ट मेरिटाइम स्पेस में किसी भी एक देश या नौसेना के लिए संभव नहीं है कि पूरे एरिया पर लगातार सर्वलेंस रख सके इसलिए भारतीय नौसेना मित्र देशों के साथ कोलेब्रेट करती है और बाएलेटरल और मल्टी लेटरल एक्सरसाइजिस, ज्वाइंट एंड कोऑर्डिनेटेड पेट्रोल्स और ज्वाइंट ईईजेड जैसी

गतिविधियां करती रहती है। पिछले एक साल में इंडियन नेवी की गतिविधियों की सम्मरी देखें तो नेवल शिप्स में कुल 12560 दिन के बराबर समय समुद्र में बताया है। सबमेरिन्स में करीब 10510 दिन के बराबर डिप्लायमेंट रही है और नौसेना के एयरक्राफ्ट में समुद्री क्षेत्रों पर 17150 घंटे की उड़ान भरी है।

हमारे इंटीग्रल सोर्सिस जैसे शिप्स, सबमेरिन और एयरक्राफ्ट के अलावा अन्य सूचना मेकेनिज्म हैं। दिल्ली के पास गुरुग्राम में स्थित आईएफसी आईओआर एक ऐसा ही महत्वपूर्ण सेंटर है जो एक रीजनल सूचना हब के रूप में 25 देशों और 50 मल्टी नेशनल सूचना केंद्रों से सूचना एक्सचेंज और प्रोसेसिंग करता है। .”

3.19 As regards anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations, it was further submitted by Representative of Navy as under:

“मर्चेट शिपिंग और सीफेरर्स को सी बेस्ड पाइरेसी से काफी गंभीर खतरा है। हमारे व्यापार के साथ एनडीएमसी सीफेरर्स जो काफी बड़ी संख्या में शिपिंग इंडस्ट्री में काम करते हैं, उनको पाइरेसी से सुरक्षित रखने की जिम्मेदारी इंडियन नेवी की है। इंडियन नेवी वर्ष 2008 से एंटी पाइरेसी ऑपरेशन्स के तहत गल्फ ऑफ एडन और एडज्वाइनिंग एरिया में लगातार तैनात है। वर्ष 2024 के दौरान नेवी ने छः सक्सेसफुल ऑपरेशन्स किए हैं और करीब 120 लोगों को बचाया है। ऑयल इम्पोर्ट का प्रमुख सोर्स वैस्ट अफ्रीका में गल्फ ऑफ गिनी रीजन भी है। वहां बढ़ रही पाइरेसी की घटनाओं को देखते हुए वर्ष 2022 से हमने गल्फ ऑफ गिनी में भी रैगुलर इंटरवल्स पर शिप तैनात करने शुरू किए हैं। वर्ष 2024 में यमन के हूती समूह द्वारा शिपिंग अटैक्स में वैस्टर्न इंडियन ओशियन में मेरिटाइम सिचुएशन को और भी गंभीर बना दिया। भारत से हो रहे इम्पोर्ट और एक्सपोर्ट में लगे शिप्स की रक्षा के लिए नेवी ने अब तक 30 नेवल शिप्स डिप्लाय किए हैं, करीब 25 इंसीडेंट्स में डायरेक्ट इंटरवेंशन किया है, करीब 400 लाइव्स बचाई हैं। इन आंकड़ों के मुताबिक इस साल करीब 230 मर्चेट वैसल्स को सेफली बचाया गया है जिन पर करीब 4 बिलियन यूएस डॉलर का सामान लदा था।

मकरान कोस्ट से समुद्र के रास्ते होने वाली ड्रग ट्रेफिकिंग भारत के लिए गंभीर खतरा है क्योंकि यह पैसा आतंकवाद को बढ़ावा देने के काम आता है। इंडियन नेवी ने कई सफल ऑपरेशन्स किए हैं और अब तक 35,000 करोड़ रुपये से ऊपर के नारकोटिक्स सब्सटांस सीज करने में मदद की है। किसी भी प्राकृतिक विपदा या सर्च

एंड रिस्की ऑपरेशन की जरूरत पड़ने पर सेनाएं हमेशा आगे रहती हैं। इंडियन नेवी ने इस साल देश के अंदर कई जगहों पर एचएडीआर और एसएआर ऑपरेशन्स किए हैं।”

Capability and Infrastructure Development

3.20 In respect to capability and infrastructure development, it was submitted by Representative of Navy as under:

“.....अगली कुछ स्लाइडों में इंडियन नेवी की क्षमता और इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोस्पेक्टिव प्लान का विवरण दिया जाएगा। अभी इंडियन नेवी में 111 शिप्स, 19 सब मरीन्स और 251 एयरक्राफ्ट्स हैं। यह एक संतुलित और बहुआयामी फोर्स है। देश के विकास के साथ-साथ हमारे डिफेंस आर्किटेक्चर का विकास भी जरूरी है। Accordingly, the number of ships and submarines is projected to grow as indicated on this screen. अगले कुछ सालों में शिप्स और सबमरीन्स की संख्या 234 तक बढ़ाने का प्लान है।”

3.21 On the status of operational bases of Navy, it was submitted by Representative as under:

“सर, नेवी के ऑपरेशनल एसेट्स को डिप्लॉय और मेनटेन करने के लिए सुरक्षित और आधुनिक बेसेस की जरूरत होती है।कारवार नेवल बेस और रामबिली स्ट्रैटेजिक नेवल बेस का काम अच्छी गति से चल रहा है। कई पावर ऑपरेटिंग बेसेस पर काम चल रहा है। हमारे मित्र देश ओमान के डुकुम पोर्ट में भी एक मिलिट्री लॉजिस्टिक कॉम्प्लेक्स स्थापित किया गया है, जिसका उद्घाटन इसी साल जनवरी में हुआ था। नेवी में कुल 9 नेवल एयर स्टेशन और एयर नक्लेव्स हैं। कारवार में एक एयर स्टेशन बनाने का काम जल्दी शुरू होने की आशा है, also four other enclaves are planned.”

Joint operations and exercise

3.22 In respect joint operations, it was submitted by Representative of Navy as under:

“कई ऑपरेशन्स देश के बाहर भी किए गए हैं। भारत सरकार के आदेशानुसार विश्व के किसी भी कोने में इंडियन नेवी डिजास्टर रिलीफ ऑपरेशन अंडरटेक करने में समर्थ है। इस स्लाइड में ऐसे ही कुछ ऑपरेशन्स दिखाए गए हैं। ज्वाइंटनेस एंड इंटीग्रेशन ऑफ आर्म्ड फोर्स के लार्जर विजन के अनुरूप इंडियन नेवी, इंडियन आर्मी और इंडियन एयर फोर्स के साथ कई ज्वाइंट एक्सरसाइज और मिशन में पार्टिसिपेट करती हैं। कुछ उदाहरण यहां दिए गए हैं। “

सर, हमारी जनसंख्या का बड़ा हिस्सा कोस्टल क्षेत्र में रहता है। कई महत्वपूर्ण सिटीज, फाइनेंशियल सेंटर्स और इंस्टॉलेशन ऑफ नैशनल इम्पोर्टेंस कोस्टल एरियाज में लोकेटेड हैं। इन सभी की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी भारतीय सेनाओं की है। सीसीएस के आदेशानुसार देश के कोस्टल सिक्योरिटी कन्स्ट्रक्ट में करीब 40 सरकारी एजेंसियां शामिल हैं। यह जरूरी है कि इन सब के बीच प्रॉपर समन्वय हो। Towards this, the Indian Nave conducts exercise Sea Vigil, जिसमें सारे कोस्टल स्टेट्स, यूनियन टेरिट्रीज और रिलेवेंट सरकारी विभाग भाग लेते हैं। इस माध्यम से देश के कोस्टल डिफेंस प्रोक्वोरमेंट की समीक्षा की जाती है। इस साल का एडिशन आज भी चल रहा है।“

3.23 As regards to multi national constructs, it was submitted by Representative of Navy as under:

“नौसेना कई मल्टीनेशनल कंस्ट्रक्ट में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाती है, जैसा कि यहां दिखाया गया है। इन संबंधों से हमारे देश का प्रभाव मजबूत होता है। उदाहरण के लिए भारत ने फरवरी, 2024 में मिलन नाम नौसेना एक्सरसाइज का भव्य आयोजन किया। यह इवेंट आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापट्टनम शहर में आयोजित किया गया था। इसमें 47 मित्र देशों और उनकी नेवीज ने पार्टिसिपेट किया था।“

CHAPTER IV

JOINT STAFF

The Committee have been given to understand that the Joint Staff act as a single point organization for joint manship in the Ministry of Defence which integrates policy, doctrine, war-fighting and procurement. The role and responsibilities of the organization has witnessed expansion ever since its inception in the year 2001.

4.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Joint Staff for the year 2024-25, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate(RE) and actual expenditure for Joint Staff during the last five years including 2023-24, along with projection and allocation in the BE 2024-25. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2019-20	5,422.83	4,109.41	4,813.30	4,199.13	3,770.48
2020-21	5,893.10	4,461.44	4,894.61	4,012.58	3,565.12
2021-22	6,251.11	4,543.04	4,684.83	4,146.26	3,715.26
2022-23	5,473.28	4,462.35	6,014.25	5,498.39	4,011.90
2023-24	6,543.78	6,060.45	5,349.33	5,094.38	4,274.76
2024-25	5,312.40	5,075.76	-	-	-

4.3 During examination of Demands for Grants 2024-25, a representative of Joint Staff through a Power Point Presentation before the Committee submitted the following information:

“....Headquarters IDS manages and supports the entire financial aspects and capability building of more than 120 units placed under Joint Staff organizations.

Headquarters IDS also undertakes net assessment of potential adversaries. The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, as the Chairman of Defence Crisis Management Group, coordinates response of Armed Forces during crisis situation warranting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations within and outside India.....

..... हेडक्वार्टर आईडीएस नेशनल डिफेंस एकेडमी, स्टॉफ कॉलेज, कॉलेज ऑफ डिफेंस मैनेजमेंट जैसे प्रमुख प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों का भी प्रबंधन करता है, which imparts training to not only to officers of Indian Armed Forces but also officers from friendly foreign countries. Whilst doing so highest standards of training in professional, intellectual, physical, leadership and morale using proven innovative concepts, technologies and modern practices is ensured with a view to produce competent potential future leaders for the Armed Forces.

..... Towards enhancing the integrated future war fighting capabilities, three organizations, namely, Armed Forces Special Operations Division, Defence Cyber Agency, and Defence Space Agency had been established. The activities of these organizations over the years have progressively increased both in scope and in substance.”

He further stated:

“सर, अब मैं आपको जॉइंट स्टाफ के बजट के बारे में विस्तार से बताना चाहूंगा। हेडक्वार्टर आईडीएस ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए 5075.76 करोड़ रुपये प्राप्त किए हैं। Out of these, Rs 1,352.98 crore under Capital for modernisation and Rs. 3,722.78 crore has been allocated under Revenue to support sustenance of the Joint Staff organisations. With the enhancement in the role and activities of AFSOD and DSA, we are steering a large number of integrated projects. As this jointness increases, the requirement of funds is likely to grow significantly in the near future.

Out of the total revenue allocations, Rs. 1,935.42 crore caters for operational sustenance and maintenance requirements of Joint Staff organisations. कम्पैरेटिव डेटा स्क्रीन पर दिखाया गया है। I would like to make a special mention of the fact that from Financial Year 2023-2024 onwards MoD has allotted substantially higher BE to Headquarter IDS vis-à-vis the previous Financial Years.

This enhancement at BE stage itself has benefited the joint staff organisations which are growing not only stature and size but also in overall responsibilities in undertaking their plan, training, operations and other functional activities smoothly. The capital allocations for 2024-25 are displayed on the slide and is considered adequate. The entire funds as projected by headquarters IDS have been allotted by MoD thereby supporting us in our endeavours.”

4.4 The Committee took note of the details of additional requirements projected under Revenue and Capital Heads in respect of Joint Staff at RE 23-24 stage which is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	Revenue	Capital	Total
BE Allocation	4,221.70	1,838.75	6,060.45
RE Projection	3,721.35	1,627.98	5,349.33
Additional amount sought in RE	-500.35	-210.77	-711.12
RE Allocation	3,698.20	1,396.18	5,094.38
MA Allocation	3,538.69	898.76	4,437.45

- (i) The Committee found that Jt. Staff had been allocated Rs. 100 Crore at Supplementary Stage against projection of Rs. 123 Crore under Revenue Head in the FY 2023-24. However, no additional funds were sought by Jt. Staff at Supplementary Stage under Capital Head in FY 2023-24.
- (ii) The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available. It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Jointness and integration of Armed Forces

4.5 During oral evidence, about the jointness and integration of Armed Forces, a representative of Joint Staff stated as under:

“...In accordance with our enunciated vision, Headquarters IDS is responsible to enhance the jointness and integration of the Armed Forces so as to ensure that the resources of the three services can optimally be utilized to meet the challenges across the spectrum of war fighting and security of the nation. Towards this, Headquarters IDS formulates policies and doctrines to coordinate, synergize, enhance, and optimize op capability, training, and other functional aspects such as foreign cooperation, logistics, communications, medical, and

harmonizes identification and acquisition of modern capabilities and technologies by the three services”.

.....अब मैं इंटीग्रेटेड डिफेंस स्टॉफ ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के बारे में बताना चाहूंगा। The Joint Staff organizational chart is as shown on the slide which includes operational command like Andaman and Nicobar, signal intelligence units, premier training establishments such as National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, and College of Defence Management. As can be seen from the slide that only two units namely Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and Andaman-Nicobar Command were supported through Joint Staff budget in 2001. गत वर्षों के दौरान इस सूची में इजाफा हुआ है and it has grown progressively and currently we have 13 JSOs.

Apart from this, the scope of HQ IDS also includes oversight of three joint logistics nodes. With additional four joint logistics nodes in the pipeline, we will further strengthen the objective of optimization. इस ग्रोथ में बजटरी एलोकेशन के अनुरूप वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। अंडमान-निकोबार कमांड भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों की देश की पहली और एकमात्र ज्वाइंट सर्विसेज़ कमांड है, जिसे अक्टूबर, 2001 में अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह, उसके टेरिटोरियल वाटर्स और वायु क्षेत्र की रक्षा, ईईजेड की निगरानी, मेरीटाइम सिक्योरिटी, पाइरेसी और नारकोटिक्स के खिलाफ जवाबी कार्रवाई एवं इस क्षेत्र में एचएडीआर के लिए गठित की गई थी। The Command also safeguards strategic interests of the nation in Eastern Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea abutting Southeast Asia and the strategic waterway Straits of Malacca, an important choke point in the Indian Ocean region from where the majority of maritime trade passes. Its essence lies in integral application of force. It is pertinent to mention that the entire support to this Command including operations, sustenance, capability enhancement in terms of land, maintenance, etc. is handled through Joint Staff budget.

CHAPTER V

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

The Committee found that the ECHS provides cashless and capless healthcare to ex-servicemen. The aim of ECHS is to provide quality healthcare to Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Pensioners and their dependents.

5.2 The Committee have been intimated that ECHS has 30 Regional Centres, 427 ECHS Polyclinics and 2697 Health Care Organizations for providing treatment. ECHS provides health care to over 59 lakh beneficiaries, including primary beneficiaries, spouses, parents, dependent children and others. ECHS employs over 6655 personnel, including 1589 doctors, 2528 paramedics and 2538 non-medical contractual employees.

5.3 In reply to a question about the categorization of ECHS Polyclinics, the Ministry apprised the Committee through a written reply as under:

(a) Polyclinics are categorized as either Military or Non-Military, depending on whether a Military hospital is co-located or not and are further categorized into five types, i.e. Type A to E, based on the number of Ex-servicemen residing in that area. They are :-

Ser No.	Category Polyclinic	of	No. of Ex-Servicemen
(i)	Type A		Above 20,000
(ii)	Type B		Above 10,000
(iii)	Type C		Above 5,000
(iv)	Type D		Above 2,500
(v)	Type E (Mobile)		Above 1,500 (for remote areas)

(b) Approximately 58 lakh beneficiaries including ESM and their dependents are presently availing ECHS benefits.

(c) The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on various Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time for opening new Polyclinics or upgrading /downgrading existing polyclinics.

Budget

5.4 The details of projections, allocation and expenditure by ECHS for the last five years along with projections for 2024-25 are as follows:

FY	Projection (Rs. In Crs)	Allocation (Rs. In Crs)	Expenditure (Rs. In Crs)
2019-20	5733.00	5199.21	5193.60
2020-21	6892.00	5321.28	4579.63
2021-22	5643.61	4870.75	4864.66
2022-23	7583.02	6929.07	6892.79
2023-24	9880.99	9880.99	9831.86
2024-25	9683.72	6968.00	

5.5 The Ministry furnished the following information to the Committee about additional funds provided at the supplementary stage during FY 2023-24:

“In FY 2023-24, ECHS was provided additional allocation of Rs. 3,789.74 Crore against projected requirement of Rs. 3,600.00 Crore at Supplementary Stage.”

5.6 On the issue of budgetary allocations and expenditure, a representative of ECHS submitted as under:

“सर, हमारा 84 प्रतिशत खर्च मेडिकल ट्रीटमेंट देने में ही होता है। यह एम्पैनेल्ड हॉस्पिटल्स, डेंटल केयर इंस्टीट्यूशन्स और डायग्नोस्टिक्स लैबोरेट्रीज़, इंवेस्टीगेशन मे माध्यम से ट्रीटमेंट इत्यादि में ही खर्च होता है। मेडिसिन में करीब-करीब 13 प्रतिशत खर्च होता है। डायग्नोस्टिक्स लैबोरेट्रीज़ और इंवेस्टीगेशन में ही खर्च होता है। मेडिसिन में करीब-करीब 13 प्रतिशत खर्च होता है और सैलरी में केवल 3 प्रतिशत खर्च होता है, क्योंकि कॉन्ट्रैक्चुअल एम्प्लॉयमेंट का स्ट्रेंथ भी काफी कम है।”

5.7 The Committee desired to know about steps taken to address the shortage of medicines in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“The endeavour has been to try and improve the existing system to address the issue of shortage of medicines in ECHS Polyclinic with

each step to avoid inconvenience to ECHS beneficiaries. In order to remove the shortage of medicines, following recent measures have been undertaken:-

(a) The monetary ceiling limit of purchase that can be carried out from Authorised Local Chemist (ALC) has been doubled as under:-

- (i) Type 'A' & 'B' Polyclinic - Rs 5 Lakh per month.
- (ii) Type 'C' Polyclinic - Rs 3 Lakh per month.
- (iii) Type 'D' Polyclinic - Rs 2 Lakh per month.

(b) If the medicine is still not available even through an ALC, the beneficiary will be given a Not Available (NA) certificate to purchase from the market. The Government vide its letter dated 25.3.2022 decided to extend the period from 15 days to 30 days for purchase of Not Available (NA) medicines and consumables from open market on reimbursement basis at a time subject to the maximum value of medicines and consumables not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- each time under the general conditions and Rs. 75,000/- each time under the special conditions. For Cancer Medicines, the maximum value of purchase has also been enhanced from Rs. 2 Lakh to Rs. 5 Lakh each time.

(c) In addition, a common formulary has been prepared and preparation of demand has been automated."

5.8 The Committee desired to know about steps taken to redress the shortage of medical equipments in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"The steps being taken to address equipment shortages is as under:-

(a) A thorough assessment of medical equipment in polyclinics is underway to identify shortages. If equipment is faulty, polyclinics are encouraged to get it repaired through SEMO, the primary vendor, or EME echelon.

(b) For equipment that is beyond economical repair (BER), polyclinics are obtaining the necessary certificates and submitting

demand requests to AFMSD (Armed Forces Medical Stores Depot) for replacement.

(c) Continuous coordination with DGAFMS ensures efficient management and supply of medical equipment.

(d) Other procurement channels, such as direct procurement by DGDS (Director General Dental Services) for dental equipment or through Command HQs, are being explored to expedite equipment replacement.

(e) An equipment management module is being developed within the ECHS IT system to provide constant feedback on usage and maintenance needs, enabling quick action to prevent breakdowns and shortages.”

5.9 On the issue of receiving any official complaints in the past five years regarding refusal of treatment of ECHS members by empanelled hospitals, a Ministry submitted as under:

“There is only one official complaint against ES Hospital, Villupuram (Tamil Nadu) received in Oct 2018 by the Ministry regarding refusal of treatment to ECHS Beneficiary by the empanelled hospital during past five years. The said hospital was dis-empanelled in February 2019.”

5.10 The Committee desired to know about measures being contemplated to provide the facilities of mobile ECHS Polyclinics and other relevant Medicare facilities, particularly for women and children, in remote areas of the country, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones. Under the scheme, there is a provision for Mobile Polyclinics for catering to requirements of far flung areas. 17 Mobile Polyclinics have been sanctioned in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.

Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far flung areas where Polyclinics are not available.

A proposal for establishment of 130 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) including the existing 20 Type ‘E’ (Mobile) Polyclinics is under consideration to increase the reach of ECHS to remote locations and hilly/mountainous terrain.”

5.11 When asked regarding the remedial measures taken by the Ministry to overcome unutilised vacancies in the ECHS polyclinics, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

“In order to fill up the vacancies, part time employment with suitable remuneration is being made in accordance with the existing policy.

The case for revision of enhancing the contractual remuneration of the contractual Medical, Paramedical and other staff is also being undertaken to attract the best talent and fill up the unutilised vacancies.”

Authorized and actual manpower for ECHS Polyclinics

5.12 During the oral evidence, through the power point presentation, the details of authorized and actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics shown to the Committee:

Ser (No.)	Appointment	Auth Manpower	Actual Manpower	Additional sanctioned in 2024
(i)	Medical Officer	955	955	175
(ii)	Medical Specialist	200	124	66
(iii)	Radiologist	61	27	34
(iv)	Gynaecologist	61	58	34
(v)	Dental Officer	471	425	57
(vi)	OIC Polyclinic	410	405	23
(vii)	Para Medical	2528	2528	286
(viii)	Driver	488	488	57
(ix)	Non Medical Staff	1640	1640	625
	Total	6814	6650	1357

sanctioned 23 New PCs, upgraded 50 PCs and an additional 1357 contractual manpower in the year 2024.

5.13 During the oral evidence of the Committee, on the issue of shortage of specialists, a representative of ECHS submitted as under:

“स्ट्रेस मैनेजमेंट बहुत संवेदनशील विषय है। पोली क्लिनिक्स में अभी तक साइकिएट्रिस्ट स्पेशलिस्ट की पोस्ट अभी तक तो नहीं है, लेकिन दूसरे मेडिकल अफसर हैं, उनके माध्यम से यह काम किया जाता है। हम एक नया प्रयास करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग संस्थाएं हैं, जिनके साथ हम एमओयू कर रहे हैं और हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि उनके साथ स्ट्रेस मैनेजमेंट के प्रोग्राम में एक्स-सर्विसमें जुड़ सकें।”

5.14 The Committee desired to know about proposal for enhancing the contractual manpower in ECHS clinics/ polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“A case for De-Novo review of ECHS Polyclinics is already under consideration and would include establishment of 21 new Polyclinics, upgradation of 50 ECHS Polyclinics. The establishment of new polyclinics, upgradation of polyclinics will enhance the authorised number of contractual employees by around 2000.”

Payment of Pending Bills by ECHS to Empanelled Private Hospitals

5.15 When asked regarding the steps the Ministry is taking to redress the problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals pending for payment, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

“Steps taken to redress the problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of private recognized hospitals are as under:-

- (a) Continuous monitoring of Turn Around Time (TAT) with Bill Processing Agencies (BPA).
- (b) Monitoring of response to ‘Need More Information (NMI)’ cases with empanelled hospitals for early processing.
- (c) More doctors have been assigned to Regional Centres (RC’s) under heavy bill processing workloads to accelerate approvals.
- (d) A centralised dashboard is being established to track the status of all submitted, approved, and pending bills, ensuring better transparency and faster processing.

(e) ECHS is exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to streamline bill processing and detect fraudulent claims. Currently, inflated bills from empanelled hospitals are leading to multiple review cycles, increasing approval times. Introducing AI could significantly reduce processing time and improve accuracy.”

ECHS in far-flung areas

5.16 On being asked about the steps taken by Ministry to increase the out reach of ECHS in far-flung areas, the Ministry forwarded the following information:

“The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones. Under the scheme, there is a provision for Mobile Polyclinics for catering to requirements of far flung areas. 17 Mobile Polyclinics have been sanctioned in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.

Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far flung areas where Polyclinics are not available.

The Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) rates were reduced in non-CGHS areas/cities to facilitate more hospitals to empanel with the ECHS.

A proposal for establishment of 130 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) including the existing 20 Type ‘E’ (Mobile) Polyclinics is under consideration to increase the reach of ECHS to remote locations and hilly/mountainous terrain.”

PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ARMY

Budget

The Committee note that Indian Army is a vital land component of the Armed Forces. The Indian Army strengthens the idea of India and lives by national values, dedicated to preserving national interests, safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of our Nation. The challenges before the Army include thwarting proxy wars, defeating/arresting internal threats, assist the Government and the people of India during all needs and crises including natural and manmade disasters. To perform all the duties with perfection, the Army needs Revenue as well as Capital Budget as per the projection. For the financial year 2024-25, the Army projected for Rs. 2,14,577.03 crore and allocated Rs. 1,91,319.60 crore, just Rs. 23,257.43 crore less than the projection. During the financial year 2023-24, against the projection of Rs 1,84,989.60 crore, it was allocated Rs. 1,81,371.97 crore, which was reduced by Rs. 3617.63 crore. In the RE same year, the Army made a projection of Rs.1,97,628.57 crore but the allocation was Rs 1,95,032.23 crore. The Committee find that during FY 2023-24 only Rs 1,91,602.05 crore was spent and Rs 3430.18 crore remained unutilized by the Army. This, in the opinion of the Committee, would require prudent fiscal planning and concerted efforts. The Committee would like to know the final outcome in this regard from the Ministry consequent to the end of Financial Year while furnishing the Action Taken Notes. The Committee understand that a major portion of the budget head primarily goes towards salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular

training and operational preparedness of the Army. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the trend which has been introduced with favourable allocation this year under the Revenue Head should be continued in the coming years also. It is needless to state here that regular interactions may be held with the Ministry of Finance as soon as the proposals for the subsequent budget are formed.

2. The Committee deduce that under Capital Head, in BE for the financial year 2024-25, Army's projection was Rs. 35,664.95 crore and the same amount has been allocated to it. In RE 2023-24, the projection of the Army was Rs. 33,412.16 crore and there was no deduction in allocation. However, the expenditure in FY 2023-24 was Rs. 28,613.45 crore. The Committee understand that Capital Budget usually provides for expenditure on modernization, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc, which are essential not only for the modernization of the Army but also to safeguard territorial integrity of the nation. The Committee feel that Capital Projection should be incremental in nature, invariably consistent and it should not be less than that of a previous year so that it can absorb the inflationary trends. The Committee opine that though the expenditure on salaries of manpower deployed is fixed and is an essential component, the budget should cater as to induct state-of-the-art weapon systems and development of other infrastructure at the borders which, at any cost, cannot be compromised. Our expenditure should be in proportion to the increase in Defence spending of our neighbours. Therefore, the Committee feels that the Capital Budget of the Army should be sufficient to have a deterrent capacity to ward off adversaries in case of any hostility.

Percentage Share of Army Budget

3. Notwithstanding the percentage share of the Army budget, the Committee have been assured by the representative of the Ministry of Defence that any additional budget required for priority operations, sustenance and Modernization of the Indian Army will be met at the revised/supplementary stage.

Keeping in view the important role of Army's responsibility to secure the vast land borders and operating as an agency for counter-insurgency, the Committee hope that fund will not be an issue of concern for the Army and as per submission made by the Ministry, Army's further requirement will be met at the revised/supplementary stage.

Budget for Modernization

4. The Committee note from the replies submitted that in the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for Committed Liabilities (CL) and New Schemes (NS). In the Financial Year 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 30163.00 crore was allocated to Army at BE stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head. The submissions made by the Ministry during oral evidence revealed that the Capital Budget has two major heads: modernisations through procurement of new equipment and weapon platforms which amounts to Rs.27,421 crore or 77 per cent of the total allocation. With the balance Rs.8,227 crore or 23 per cent being allocated for development of key infrastructure in the financial year 2024-25, the Committee have been informed that the allocation will take care of renewed focus on expenditure on infrastructure to safeguard the northern borders as well as improvement of habitat in field areas and military stations. Modernization budget would be utilized to make delivery-based payments for weapons, ammunition and other warlike equipment as

also for payment against new acquisitions. The Committee have also been informed that Major focus has been in areas of precision targeting, long-range vectors, intelligence, surveillance and recce systems, satellite communication enablement, night vision equipment, unmanned aerial systems and counter-unmanned aerial systems. The Committee are happy to know that this year also, modernisation through induction of indigenous weapons and platforms is being explored further. In the current financial year, acceptance of necessity worth Rs.1,06974 crore has been accorded for procurement of new equipment and weapons from indigenous sources.

In view of this renewed emphasis on modernization, the Committee feel that modernization of the Army will be accorded top priority in view of the current global scenario and they also hope that in case of any further need, effort will be made by the Ministry to substantiate at the revised/supplementary grant stage.

Modernization and Modern Warfare Tactics

5. The Committee understand that conventional wars were fought in only three modes *i.e.*, land, air and water, but recently there is a paradigm shift in the technology used in fighting a war. There have been innovations and experiments in western countries, and the use of drones, space, cyberspace, kinetic and non-kinetic format etc. has enveloped the sphere of war, which can be fought from very distant locations through a remote controlled mode. In this regard, the Committee are confident that the effect of modernisation will definitely enable our country to develop a robust digital infrastructure, besides improving the existing weaponry.

Indigenization

6. The Committee find from the replies submitted by the Ministry that during the last five financial year (2019-20 to 2023-24) and the current

Financial year 2024-25 (upto September, 2024), a total of 330 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of Defence equipment for Army, out of which 278 contracts worth about 88% of total contracts value, with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of Defence equipment.

Further, the Committee find that the Ministry of Defence is committed to Aatmanirbharta in Defence. The Ministry emphasized on self reliance & Make in India, which is evident from the initiatives undertaken i.e. Highest priority to procurement under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, introduction of new category of Buy (Global-Manufacture in India) to give push to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, increased Indigenous Content (IC) in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020, inclusion of provision for minimum 50% IC in the form of indigenous material/ components/ software in the equipment being acquired with an aim at boosting indigenous production and reduce import dependency, notification of 'Positive Indigenization Lists' on a periodic basis to promote Aatmanirbharta out of which five Positive Indigenization Lists comprising of 509 platforms/equipment have been issued, Self-Reliance in Indian Defence eco system with "No foreign sourcing", foreign procurements only as exceptions with prior approval of Defence Acquisition Council and earmarking of 75% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25.

The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry towards indigenization and expect that this would continue unabated.

Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs)

7. From the written replies submitted by the Ministry, the Committee note that Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) against various protection levels are being developed & produced within the country. The development

agencies include R&D agencies like DMSRDE, Kanpur (a unit of DRDO), IIT Delhi etc. Adequate industry base is available indigenously for production and manufacture of BPJ as per the requirement of Service HQrs and State Police Forces. Bullet Proof Jackets are being procured by SHQs and the Ballistic Testing is carried out in accordance with General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and approved testing plan formulated through collegiate with testing agencies like Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh or National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar. The Committee further note that till date, a total of 41 licences have been issued for manufacturing of Bullet Proof Jackets/Body Armour/Body Protector since 2001 by private industries. Out of these companies, 10 companies have commenced manufacturing. The Committee also note that Troop Comforts Limited (TCL) [erstwhile Ordnance Equipment Group of Factories] is also involved in the development of Bullet Proof Jackets and Vests for various threat levels. Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEF), Kanpur has developed one version of BPJ in collaboration with MIDHANI as 'BHABHA KAVACH' based upon the technologies developed by DRDO and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Another Unit of TCL, Ordnance Clothing Factory (OCF) Avadi has developed another version of BPJ as per MHA requirement and State Police Forces. The Committee are happy to note that our soldiers will get protection through the indigenously made BPJs to save their precious lives. The Committee hope that the remaining 31 companies, which got licences for manufacturing BPJs, be pursued to start manufacturing at the earliest with a view to meet the urgent need of BPJs in the Armed Forces.

Capacity Building

8. The Committee are happy to note that the Indian Army remains committed to build its capability and be ready to operate in all kinds of operating environments thereby ensuring territorial integrity of our nation. The Committee understand that the nomenclature of modern warfare has drastically changed and it warrants co-ordinated and concerted efforts by the three forces jointly to mitigate any evil design of the adversaries. They are happy that besides taking various steps such as the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, joint logistic nodes, joint exercises and HADR, etc., Army has also supported other policies like Nari Shakti, Gati Shakti, Digital India, Start up India, etc. Indian Army's engagement in intense counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency operations is yet another fur in the cap of success. The Committee have also been given to understand that rigorous training is being imparted to the Army personnel so as to maintain high standard of efficiency. Restructuring of training has been undertaken in synchronization with current realities and requirements. The Committee express their immense satisfaction over the continuous effort being made to further augment the capacity of the hitherto existing capable forces in the army.

Women empowerment

9. The Committee are happy that in connection with the policy of 'Nari Shakti', the Indian Army is committed towards women empowerment. The Army has deployed its women officers in difficult areas such as Siachen Glacier, Line of Actual Control, along the northern borders, and women pilots have been inducted in Army Aviation. The Committee was informed that two officers and 25 sepoy form part of the all-women contingent to the United Nations mission in Sudan. Even this year saw the first all-women officers and soldiers

marching contingent in the Republic Day parade. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Indian Army for their commitment towards women empowerment. This, the Committee feel, will go a long way in creating a level playing field for women in society at large.

Role of Army during disaster

10. Role of the Army in providing relief during natural disasters and calamities is yet another success story. Indian Army is often the first responder in times of natural disaster and calamities by virtue of its inherent organizational structure and deployment pan India. Providing humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities remains a priority for the Indian Army for which the Army trains and liaises with civilian administration and other stakeholders on a periodic basis. The Committee wish the Army all success in their endeavour, for which people of our country feel secure even during calamities.

AIR FORCE

Budgetary Provisions

11. While examining Demand Nos. 19 & 20 in respect of the Air Force for the year 2024-25, the Committee find that in Revenue Section, Air Force projected Rs. 60,847.17 crore against which an allocation of Rs. 46,223.49 crore has been made. The allocation is deficient by Rs. 14,623.68 crore and approximately 24 per cent lower than the projection.

As informed, the non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Air Force, therefore, 24 per cent cut in the allocation may hamper the training and operational preparedness of the Air Force. Therefore, to avoid any such contingency situation, the Committee hope that during Supplementary Grants and Revised Estimate stages, the Ministry will take into

consideration this fact and make additional allocation as per the need of the force.

12. The Committee find that in Capital segment, the allocation has been same as that of the projected during 2024-25. It is a known fact that the Capital Budget of a department primarily provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development etc. and allocating as per projection shares determination on the part of the Government for potential development of the force. Moreover, during oral evidence, the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee that over the last five years, there has been a comfortable allocation of funds, both for the capability enhancement as well as sustenance. IAF's total budgetary allocation in the last five years has grown at an average rate of approximately 11 per cent. The Committee was further informed that the capital budget allocation in the last five years has grown at an average growth rate of 8 per cent, whereas the revenue budget has seen an enhancement by approximately 9.71 per cent. In line with the Government's initiative of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IAF's capital acquisition expenditure towards foreign sources will be kept below the given target of 30 per cent. In this current financial year, IAF is expected to surpass the domestic expenditure target of 70 per cent. Approximately 50 per cent of the revenue budget is utilised for other than salary. However, the Committee expect the Ministry to ensure that the allocated resources are fruitfully and judiciously utilized in full by Air Force so that modernisation trajectory of Air Force is not adversely affected.

Percentage Share of Air Force Budget

13. From the data supplied by the Ministry, the Committee note an evident increase in the percentage share of the revenue budget of the

Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates. The budget of the Air Force increased from 9.70 per cent of DSE in 2019-20 to 10.25 per cent in 2023-24. At the same time, there is an increase in capital budget share from 12.89 per cent in 2019-20 to 13.47 per cent in 2023-24. The Committee are of the considered view that % increase in both capital and revenue segment of the Air Force in the DSE budget will further help galvanise the Indian Air Force.

Budget for Modernization

14. The Committee note that in the Defence Services Estimates (DSE), there is no separate allocation of funds for Committed Liabilities (CL) and New Schemes (NS). Further, earmarking between Committed Liabilities and New Schemes is carried out by Service HQrs based on a prioritization among the projects/schemes and the progress of contractual milestones. The Committee also note that in the Financial Year 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 54,024.37 crore was allocated at BE stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head (which includes Committed Liabilities and New Schemes). Moreover, in RE 2023-24, allocation to Air Force was increased by Rs. 602.62 Crore (to Rs. 54,626.99 Crore) over BE 2023-24. Further, at MA stage, the allocation was increased to Rs. 59271.16 crore. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 57427.53 crore has been incurred in Financial Year 2023-24. The Committee hope that keeping the modernization of the Armed Forces in view of the current global scenario, the Ministry will ensure modernization and technological uupgradation in armament procurement in the Forces.

Planning and Procurement

15. The Committee note that acquisitions planned for fighter aircrafts include LCA Mk1A, Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA), LCA Mk-II, Advance Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA); Helicopter Fleet i.e. Light

Combat Helicopter (LCH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH Mk-I), Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) & Deck Based Multi Role Helicopter (DBMRH); Transport Fleet i.e. Avro Replacement (C-295MW), Avionics Upgrade of Dornier aircraft; combat enablers i.e. Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA), SIGINT and COMJAM aircraft (SCA), AEW&C Mk 1A, AEW&C Mk-II, transport fleet i.e. HTT-40, Surface to Air Guided Weapons i.e. Close-in Weapon System (CIWS), VSHORADS, RPAs and UAVs, Radars {LLTR (Ashwini)}, indigenous weapons development i.e. New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile, Astra Mk-I & Mk-II BVR AA Missile, Pralay, LR-SOW, Tactical Advance Range Augmentation Kit, Long Range Glide Bomb, SAAW Weapon System. The Committee wish that the Ministry of Defence will negotiate and finalise the acquisition plan in a time bound manner to help maintain equipment and aircraft at an optimum level.

Indigenization

16. The Committee note that Air Force is vigorously pursuing indigenisation and expenditure is being made as per committed liabilities and internal budgetary allocation for domestic capital acquisition. During deliberations also, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee that the capability of Su-30 is being upgraded though indigenous upgraded programme. The Committee have also been informed that Mark 1A would be a good example to showcase wherein IAF, DRDO and HAL have been able to build a contemporary all-weather light combat aircraft, which is designed on modular concept. It boasts of advance avionics and a fully indigenous Fly-by-Wire system which is comparable to the best in the world. It is capable of air-to-air refuelling, and in the ongoing contract, its airborne radar will eventually be replaced by an indigenous Uttam Radar. The Committee further note that Air Force has indigenized many

components required for regular use through its Base Repair Depots. The Committee understand that 100 per cent indigenization is not possible and feasible, however, they recommend that constant, and continuous efforts should be made towards achieving whatever is achievable towards making the country self-reliant.

Force Level

17. The Committee have been informed that the authorized strength of the IAF is 42 fighter squadrons, however, as on date it has 31 active fighter squadrons. The Air Force also has an ageing fleet of MiG 21, MiG 23 and MiG-27 and other aircraft which are soon going to be phase out from the services, making rapid depletion in squadron strength of the force. The Committee have also been informed that IAF has received and operationalized two squadrons of Tejas Mk1 ac. The aircraft is being employed for operational roles and participated in the recently concluded international exercise Tarang Shakti. The Committee also find that Tejas Mk-1A programme has been delayed due to design & development issues. The Ministry have also informed that HAL has been asked to increase the production of Tejas. IAF has also progressed as case for procurement of additional 97 LCA Mk IA aircraft for which AoN was accorded and RFP was issued. The Committee have been informed that with these acquisitions, IAF will have 220 LCA Mk-I & Mk-IA ac. In addition, the Committee find that Tejas Mk 2 which is under design and development, will be a day and night capable, all weather multirole combat aircraft with adequate self Defence capability to operate in a dense and hostile AD environment. The Committee at this stage would like to impress upon the Ministry to sensitize HAL to augment production of Tejas so that operational role of Air Force is not affected due to depletion in squadrons strength. They would also like to urge upon the Ministry to expedite

procurement of contracted fighter aircrafts. The Committee may be informed of the outcome of the effort made in this regard.

Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI)

18. During deliberation before the Committee, a representative of the Air Force submitted that under the IAF's Modernisation of Airfields Infrastructure Programme, all 52 airfields are being equipped with the Modern Airfield System. 39 of the airfields are operating as joint user airfield. It was also submitted that the project of Next Generation Hardened Aircraft Shelters is being implemented at the forward airfield for the protection of critical assets. The Committee find that the joint usage of the Air Force airfields along with some of the advanced landing ground help in enhancing regional connectivity as part of Government UDAN scheme. All this, in turn, leads to significant financial and carbon emission saving. It was also informed that IAF is cognisant of the enormous human and material costs that are involved in military aviation and hence, pays great emphasis on aerospace safety. To complement its substantial flying effort, IAF has a comprehensive inbuilt safety programme that works towards prevention and minimising accidents and these efforts have paid dividends in the form of a steady decline in the accidents. While appreciating the pace of work, the Committee emphasize that the endeavour made by the Indian Air Force towards achieving the targets should be accomplished within a given time-frame.

Manpower

19. The Committee have been informed that as on 01 Oct 24, there were 11,916 officers (except Med/Dental branch) against an establishment of 12,929 leading to a deficiency of 1,013. The induction plans have been revamped so as to gradually bring the strength at par with the sanctioned establishment. IAF selection process comprises of

AFCAT, AFSB evaluation, Computerised Pilot Selection System (when applicable) and stringent medical criteria. The Committee note that while adequate candidates register for joining IAF in the officer cadre, total number of candidates who eventually get commissioned varies. The Committee have also been informed that efforts are in place to increase the induction of officers which include establishing a dedicated department named 'DISHA' by Indian Air force as the tag line, a focused Digital Publicity campaign is being undertaken on all social media platforms.

They are also happy to note that the IAF has come up with a new concept of installing Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion (FCPs) at prominent locations across the country. FCP is a technologically advanced platform to provide information about the IAF and its career opportunities in a trendy, logical and appealing manner. In addition, Air Force participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Publicity stalls at various forums including youth festivals, career conclaves, youth related exhibitions etc. that are set up from time to time for the benefit of the targeted youth. Two customized buses with information displayed about IAF and consisting of a flying simulator in each bus, visit various educational institutes across the county to motivate students. The Committee find that these initiatives have borne positive results and there has been an increase in number of aspiring youth getting commissioned. While appreciating the fact that recruitment in IAF is an ongoing process based on scheduled and unscheduled discharges, the Committee desire that the Ministry should ensure that there is no shortage of manpower essential for the operations of the Indian Air Force.

NAVY

Budget

20. The Committee understand that the Indian Navy has been playing a maritime leadership role in the Indian Ocean Region due to its multi-dimensional capabilities and active presence in the region. The environment in India's maritime neighbourhood is dynamic, with increasing instabilities, deepening geopolitical and ethnic faultiness, growing military capabilities and wide range of security challenges. These pose a combination of conventional and sub-conventional threats emanating from the seas. In this regard, a representative of Navy, during the presentation before the Committee, stated that a major share in the Navy's budget (i.e. Rs. 90998.95 crore) devoted towards the substantial increase in capital expenditure.

The Committee find that under Capital Head in BE 2024-25, allocation has been same as that of projected of Rs. 62,545.98 crore. The allocation of BE 2024-25 is an increase of Rs. 9741.23 in compare to BE 2023-24. The Committee are of the considered view that increase in capital segment of the Navy budget will further help strengthen the Indian Navy.

In the revenue head, the Committee find that the allocation in 2024-25 is, however, marginally higher than the previous years. Noticing a higher projection during 2024-25, the Committee hope that the Ministry would provide additional grant during the supplementary/revised stage, if needed, to carry out their modernisation plan.

Indigenisation

21. During the oral evidence, a representative of Ministry informed the Committee that a total of 65 ships and submarines are under construction at the moment. These will be inducted into the Navy. The

Navy submitted that they continue their relentless efforts towards the country's technological and industrial self-reliance. The Committee note that Navy has played a major role in the development of Indigenous Shipbuilding. The first indigenous naval ship was ready in the 60s and till date they have inducted around 130 ships and submarines made in the country. The Committee have also been informed that as on date, 63 Naval Ships and Submarines are under construction in Indian shipyards. 31 such projects have got government sanction. The Committee are happy to note that to promote self-reliance in the field of aviation, work on several important projects such as TEDBF and DBMRH is underway. Work is underway on 187 projects under the MAKE, IDEX and DDF schemes of the Government of India. Appreciating the efforts made by the Navy towards achieving indigenization, the Committee desire that concerted efforts be made to expedite completion of the ongoing projects so that the Navy attains greater degree of 'Aatmanirbharta' in near future.

Operational Preparedness and threat perception

22. The Committee are of the considered view that for the safety and security of India's national interest, it is important to maintain peace and security in the maritime space. The Committee feel that there are two types of threats to the peace and security of our maritime space- threat from traditional sources, like China and Pakistan, non-traditional sources like piracy, drone attacks, missile attacks, human drug trafficking, illegal fishing, etc.

The Committee find that Indian Navy's operations are conducted to mitigate all these threats. The Indian Navy's Area of Operation extends from the west coast of the African continent in the west to Australia in the east. Further, this part is divided into two parts, the western part comes under the jurisdiction of the Western Naval

Command and the eastern part comes under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Naval Command. Naval ships, aircraft, autonomous aircraft are always deployed to keep the Maritime Coastal Areas under 24/7 constant surveillance.

The Committee have further been informed that besides attending to maritime territorial integrity, it is also the responsibility of the Indian Navy to act against piracy and narco-trading. The Committee also note that the Indian Navy has been continuously deployed in the Gulf of Aden and Advisory Area since 2008 under anti-piracy operations. During the year 2024, the Navy has conducted six successful operations and rescued around 120 people. The Gulf of Guinea region in West Africa is also a major source of oil imports. In view of the increasing incidents of piracy, in that region, the Navy has in 2022, started deploying ships at regular intervals in the Gulf of Guinea. The Committee are aware that In the year 2024, shipping attacks by Yemen's Houthi group made the maritime situation in the Western Indian Ocean even more serious. To protect the ships engaged in import and export from India, the Navy has so far deployed 30 naval ships, made direct intervention in about 25 incidents, saved about 400 lives. Expressing their satisfaction over the role and preparedness of the Indian Navy, the Committee feel that keeping in view the drastic change in the modern warfare tactics, the Navy will continue to protect the maritime zone and prevent piracy and other maritime security threats.

Manpower

23. During deliberations, a representative of the Navy informed the Committee that the Indian Navy has 10,143 officers, 64,770 sailors, 9,413 Agniveers and 32,171 Defence civilians. The Committee have been informed that all personnel are fully trained for their work and are

fully capable of maintaining combat-worthiness and operational preparedness of the Navy. The initial training of naval officers takes place at the Indian Naval Academy. Further, professional training is done in different professional schools according to their branch and trade. The Indian Navy also trains naval personnel from neighbouring and friendly countries. So far, more than 20 thousand professionals from about 50 countries have been trained. The Committee, while appreciating the measures taken by the Navy for enriching Human Resources Management, hope that they would continue to impart state-of-art training, both in logistics management and technology management.

JOINT STAFF

Budget

24. The Committee note that in the Budget Estimates for 2024-25, Joint Staff has made a projection of Rs. 5,312.40 crore against which an allocation of Rs. 5075.76 crore has been provided resulting into a shortfall of Rs. 236.64 crore. However, during the deliberations before the Committee, a representative of Joint Staff apprised the Committee that BE from the FY 2023-24 onwards Ministry of Defence has allotted substantially higher BE to Headquarter IDS vis-a-vis the previous years and the enhancement at BE stage has benefitted the joint staff organizations for growing not only in structure and size but also in overall responsibilities in undertaking their plan, training, operations and other functional activities smoothly.

The Committee understand that Joint Staff act as single point organization for jointmanship in Ministry of Defence which integrates policy, doctrine, war-fighting and procurement and find that during the years role of Joint Staff has risen many folds. Presently, it supports financial aspects and capability building of more than 120 units. The

Committee further note that Integrated Defence staff (IDS) formulates policies and doctrines to coordinate, synergize, enhance and optimise operation capability, training and other functional aspects such as foreign cooperation, logistics, communications, medical, and harmonises identification and acquisition of modern capabilities and technologies by the three services.

The Committee, while appreciating the role and responsibilities of HQ Integrated Defence staff/Joint Staff express their hope that the Ministry would provide additional grant, it required, at the supplementary/revised stage in order to strengthen the Joint Staff.

Jointness and integration of Armed Forces

25. The Committee note that Headquarters IDs is responsible to enhance the jointness and integration of Armed Forces so as to ensure that the resources of three services can optimally be utilized to meet the challenges across the spectrum of war fighting and security of the nation. The Committee have been informed that the Joint Staff includes operational commands like Andaman and Nicobar, signal intelligence units, premier training establishments such as National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and College of Defence Management. Only two units namely Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and Andaman-Nicobar Command were supported through Joint Staff budget in 2001, yet there is an increase in the list and it has grown progressively and currently there are 13 JSOs. The Committee have also been informed that IDS also includes oversight of three joint logistics nodes and with the additional four joint logistics nodes strengthen the objective of optimization. There is an increase in the growth in accordance with budgetary allocation. The Committee also note that the Command also safeguards strategic interests of the nation in Eastern Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea abutting Southeast

Asia and the strategic waterway Straits of Malacca, an important choke point in the Indian Ocean region from where the majority of maritime trade passes. Keeping in view the role played by the Command in securing Indian Ocean Region, the Committee are more than hopeful that the Ministry would provide additional grant at supplementary/revised stage in case of any future need in future.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

Budget

26. The Committee note that close to 59 lakh beneficiaries including ESM and their dependents are presently availing ECHS benefits. In the financial year 2023-24, the projection of ECHS was Rs. 9880.99 and there was no deduction in allocation. However, the expenditure was Rs. 9831.86 crore. The Committee have also been informed that ECHS was also provided additional allocation of Rs. 3789.74 crore against projected requirement of Rs. 3600.00 crore at Supplementary stage. During the FY 2024-25 the Projection was Rs. 9683.72 crore, however, allocation was Rs. 6968.00 crore. During oral evidence, the representatives of ECHS informed the Committee that 84 percent of the budget incurred in medical expenditure includes expenses on empanelled hospitals, dental care institutions, diagnostic laboratories, various investigations, etc. out of which around 13 percent incurred in medicine and 3 percent on salary. The Committee desire that the budget allocated at BE or RE stage may be fully utilized as such expenditure is for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen of our country.

Vacancies in ECHS Polyclinics

27. The Committee find that there is a gap between authorized and actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics. The Committee have also been apprised that Government has sanctioned 23 New PCs, upgradation of 50 PCs and an additional 1357 contractual manpower in the year 2024.

The Committee note that remedial measure have been taken by the Ministry to overcome unutilized vacancies in ECHS polyclinics. Since vacancies in hospitals/polyclinics affect the healthcare facilities being provided to the Ex-servicemen, the Committee recommend that such vacancies be fill-up in a time-bound manner to provide adequate healthcare facilities to our ex-soldiers so that they do not feel neglected after exiting the service.

28. Establishment of new polyclinics is yet another phenomena which has come to the notice of the Committee. They find that a case for De-Novo review of ECHS Polyclinics has already been carried out which would include the establishment of 21 new Polyclinics, upgradation of 50 ECHS Polyclinics. The establishment of new polyclinics and the upgradation of polyclinics will enhance the authorised number of contractual employees by around 2000. The proposal is stated to have been under consideration with MoD. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the pending proposal.

Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empanelled private hospitals

29. From the reply submitted by the Ministry to resolve perennial problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals, the Committee note that the Ministry is continuously monitoring Turn Around Time (TAT) with Bill Processing Agencies (BPA), monitoring response to 'Need More Information (NMI)' cases with empanelled hospitals for early processing, assignment of more doctors to Regional Centres (RCs) under heavy bill processing workloads to accelerate approvals, establishment of centralized dashboard to track the status of all submitted, approved and pending bills, ensuring better transparency and faster processing and exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to streamline bill processing and detect fraudulent claims. Currently, inflated bills from

empanelled hospitals are leading to multiple review cycles, increasing approval times. Introducing AI could significantly reduce processing time and improve accuracy. The Committee wish and hope that such regular allotments are being provided by the Ministry to the ECHS, so the inconvenience being faced by the ESM would be resolved, and the private hospital would not reject ESM for admission and treatment.

While lauding the efforts taken by the Ministry in clearing the pending bills, the Committee express their concern that the issue of pendency surfaces before the Committee during the examination of DFGs every year. In this regard before commenting anything substantial, the Committee would like to be apprised on the following sets of information:

- (i) The numbers of ESM/Dependents who approached all the polyclinics combined during the last three years;
- (ii) The number of ESM who approached all Defence hospitals combined for treatment of themselves and the dependent during the last three years; and
- (iii) The number of ex serviceman/dependent who were referred for super specialty treatment in private hospitals.

The idea to gather such statistics is to come to a conclusion as to arrive at a comparable figure whether more referrals were done or they were treated in polyclinics/Defence hospitals. These figures may be supplied while furnishing the Action Taken Notes to the Committee.

ECHS in far-flung areas

30. The Committee note that in order to increase the outreach of ECHS in far-flung areas, the Ministry have sanctioned 17 Mobile Polyclinics in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir and West Bengal. These Mobile Polyclinics offer Medical Services to all beneficiaries including women & children also. Besides this, the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) rates were reduced in non-CGHS areas/cities to facilitate more hospitals to empanel with the ECHS. Further, the Ministry has submitted a proposal for the establishment of 130 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) including the existing 20 Type 'E' (Mobile) Polyclinics under consideration to increase the reach of ECHS to remote locations and hilly/mountainous terrain. In addition to that, a Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far-flung areas where Polyclinics are not available. Further, the requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones.

The Committee express their satisfaction that over the years with the increase in ESM, the organization is growing and devising new methods to help ESM. The Committee hope that with these new proposed arrangements to be put in place in the coming years, medical related problems of ESM would be minimized and ex-soldiers will not be facing any healthcare problems.

NEW DELHI;

RADHA MOHAN SINGH

17 December, 2024
26 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

*Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Defence.*

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE (2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 21 November, 2024 from 1100 hrs. to 1700 hrs. in Committee Room `D`, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3. Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4. Captain Viriato Fernandes
5. Shri Shashank Mani
6. Shri Lumba Ram
7. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
8. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
9. Shri Jagadish Shettar
10. Shri Virendra Singh
11. Shri Kesineni Sivanath
12. Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Naresh Bansal
14. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
15. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
16. Shri Naveen Jain
17. Shri Praful Patel
18. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
19. Shri Sanjay Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Tirthankar Das — *Director*

LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Defence

Capital Outlay on Defence Services

1. Gen. Anil Chauhan CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2. Rajesh Kumar Singh Defence Secretary
3. Sanjeev Kumar Secretary (DP)
4. Dr. S. V. Kamat Secretary (DDR & D)
5. Dr. Niten Chandra Secretary (ESW)
6. Sugata Ghosh Dastidar FA(DS)
7. Air Mshl SP Dharkar VCAS
8. Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani VCOAS
9. Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai DGMO
10. Lt Gen JP Mathew CISC
11. Lt Gen Pratik Sharma DCOAS(Strat)
12. Lt Gen Rahul R Singh DCOAS(CD&S)
13. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti DCNS
14. Samir Kumar Sinha AS&DG(Acq)
15. Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar DG FP
16. Lt Gen Manish Mohan Erry DG SP
17. Lt Gen Vineet Gaur DG CD
18. Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla AS,DoD
19. Lt. Gen. Atul Anand AS,DMA
20. Sanjay Kumar Addl. FA (SK) & JS
21. Maj Gen G S Choudhry JS (Army & TA)/DMA
22. Manish Tripathi JS (Parliament)
23. Subhash Kumar DS(Budget)

Procurement Policy & Defence Planning

1. Gen. Anil Chauhan CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2. Rajesh Kumar Singh Defence Secretary
3. Sanjeev Kumar Secretary (DP)
4. Dr. S V. Kamat Secretary (DDR & D)

5.	Dr. Niten Chandra	Secretary (ESW)
6.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
7.	V Adm Sanjay Vatsayan	DCIDS (PP&FD)
8.	Samir Kumar Sinha	AS & DG(Acq)
9.	Siddhartha Singh Longjam	AS & FA (Acq)
10.	Dr. Ajay Kumar	JS & AM (LS)
11.	Dharmendra Kumar Singh	JS & AM (Air)
12.	Dinesh Kumar	JS & AM (MS)
13.	AVM GK Mohan	ADG Acq Tech (Air)
14.	Maj Gen Abhay Dhayal	ADG Acq Tech (Army)
15.	IG AP Badola PTM TM	DDG (P&P)
16.	Sanjay Kumar	Addl. FA (SK) & JS
17.	Manish Tripathi	JS (Parliament)
18.	Subhash Kumar	DS (Budget)

Indian Army

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Atul Anand	Addl. Secy., DMA
3.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
4.	Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani	VCOAS
5.	Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai	DG MO
6.	Lt Gen Pratik Sharma,	DCOAS (Strat)
7.	Lt Gen Rahul R Singh	DCOAS (CD&S)
8.	Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar	DGFP
9.	Lt Gen Manish Mohan Erry	DG SP
10.	Lt Gen Vineet Gaur	DGCD
11.	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik	AG
12.	Lt Gen VMB Krishnan	QMG
13.	Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla	MGS

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|-----|------------------------|-------------------|
| 14. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | AS, DoD |
| 15. | Sanjay Kumar | Addl. FA(SK) & JS |
| 16. | Maj Gen G S Choudhry, | JS(Army&TA)/ DMA |
| 17. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Indian Air Force

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Gen. Anil Chauhan | CDS & Secretary (DMA) |
| 2. | Atul Anand | Addl. Secy., DMA |
| 3. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 4. | Air Mshl SP Dharkar | VCAS |
| 5. | Air Mshl Tejinder Singh | DCAS |
| 6. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | Addl. Secy., DoD |
| 7. | AVM Vikram Gaur | JS(Air), DMA |
| 8. | Eddie L. Khawhring | Addl. FA& JS |
| 9. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Indian Navy

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Gen. Anil Chauhan | CDS & Secretary (DMA) |
| 2. | Atul Anand | Addl. Secy., DMA |
| 3. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 4. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | Addl. Secy., DoD |
| 5. | Vice Adm. Tarun Sobti | DCNS |
| 6. | Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, YSM | ACNS (P&P) |
| 7. | R. Adm. Vikram Menon | JS (Navy) |
| 8. | Sanjay Kumar | Addl. FA(SK) & JS |
| 9. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Indian Coast Guard

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Rajesh Kumar Singh | Defence Secretary |
| 2. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | Addl. Secy., DoD |

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 3. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 4. | DG S Paramesh PTM, TM | DGICG |
| 5. | Shri Pawan Kuamr Sharma | JS (Training/CG/SSC) |
| 6. | Sanjay Kumar | Addl. FA(SK) & JS |
| 7. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Joint Staff

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Gen. Anil Chauhan | CDS & Secretary (DMA) |
| 2. | Atul Anand | Addl. Secy., DMA |
| 3. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 4. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | Addl. Secy., DoD |
| 5. | Lt Gen JP Mathew | CISC |
| 6. | V Adm Sanjay Vatsayan | DCIDS(PP&FD) |
| 7. | R. Adm. Vikram Menon | JS (Navy) |
| 8. | Sanjay Kumar | Addl. FA(SK) & JS |
| 9. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Directorate General of Defence Estate

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Rajesh Kumar Singh | Defence Secretary |
| 2. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | Addl. Secy., DoD |
| 3. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 4. | G S Rajeswaran | DGDE |
| 5. | Valeti Premchand | Addl. DG, DGDE |
| 6. | Ms. Nigar Fatima | Addl DG |
| 7. | Ms. Vibha Sharma | Addl. DG |
| 8. | Ms. Sonam Yangdol | Addl. DG |
| 9. | Rakesh Mittal | Joint Secy (L&W) |
| 10. | Sanjay Kumar | Addl. FA(SK) & JS |
| 11. | Eddie Lalrinliana Khawlhing | Addl. FA(EL)& JS |
| 12. | Subhash Kumar | DS(Budget) |

Border Roads Organization

1.	Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
2.	Samir Kumar Sinha	AS & DG(Acq)
3.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
4.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
5.	Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan	DGBR
6.	Mayank Tewari	JS(BR)
7.	Sanjay Kumar	Addl. FA(SK) & JS
8.	Eddie Lalrinliana Khawlhring	Addl. FA concerned
9.	Subhash Kumar	DS(Budget)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them of the agenda for the Sitting i.e. oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the Defence Secretary, representatives of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate on the subjects 'General Defence Budget, Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (Civil), Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning, Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Coast Guard Organisation (CGO), Directorate General Defence Estate (DGDE) and Border Roads Organization (BRO)' in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25.

4. Subsequently, drawing attention to the Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representative of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

5. Thereafter, the Defence Secretary initiated the discussion by giving an overview of Defence Services Estimates and other Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2024-25. The highlights of the brief given by the Defence Secretary are as under:

- (i) The total outlay for Ministry of Defence is Rs. 6,21,940.85 crore which is approx 12.90 percent of Budgetary Estimates of the country and 1.9 percent

of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

- (ii) Out of total allocation, Rs. 4,54,772.67 crore has been allotted for Defence Services Estimates, Rs. 25,963.18 crore for MoD (Civil) and Rs. 1,41,205 crore for Defence pensions;
- (iii) Seventy-five percent of Defence Modernization budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in FY 2024-25; and
- (iv) The export percentage has been increased to thirty-one percent during the last ten years.

6. Then, a Power Point Presentation on **General Defence Budget** was made before the Committee. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

- (i) The total Defence Budget for 2024-25 i.e. BE Rs. 6,21,940.85 crore is an increase of 4.79 percent in Defence Budget in comparison to BE 2023-24;
- (ii) Defence Service Estimates which is almost seventy-three percent of the total Defence Budget;
- (iii) Enhancement in Non-salary revenue outlays allocation for the Defence Services in BE 2024-25 in comparison to BE 2023-24;
- (iv) Increase in revenue and capital budget as compared to previous year allocation;
- (v) Initiatives for creating an enabling environment and encouraging indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment;
- (vi) Reasons for less expenditure in capital head by Army;
- (vii) Critical aspects of indigenous defence acquisition;
- (viii) Types of defence equipments exported by defence sector;
- (ix) Innovative solutions for productivity of ex-servicemen and reduction in pension bill;
- (x) Budget involved in non-kinetic warfare;
- (xi) Reasons for increase in the Budget for Navy;
- (xii) Budget allocation for modern warfare to equip Armed Forces;
- (xiii) Use of advance equipments for surveillance of border areas and the budget allocation;
- (xiv) Quantity of defence equipments exported by DPSUs and Private Sector;
- (xv) Implementation of 'Operation Sadbhavana' scheme in Jammu and Kashmir and north eastern areas;
- (xvi) Reasons for emergency procurement of defence equipments;
- (xvii) Inclusion of all indigenous products in Srijan portal
- (xviii) Increase in Defence allocation to meet actual requirement keeping in view current security scenario;

- (xix) Planning for upgradation and modernisation of conventional arms;
- (xx) Strategy for achieving complete indigenization and self-reliance in Defence sector;
- (xxi) Association with private players in Defence sector;
- (xxii) Comparison with neighboring countries regarding expenditure on equipments and development of infrastructure.

7. The representatives of the Ministry of Defence then gave a Power Point Presentation on **Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning** which was followed by discussion on a wider gamut of issues encompassing the following:

- (i) Defence Planning to cater current and further modernisation needs of the Armed Forces in terms of platforms, equipment, ammunitions, infrastructure and manpower;
- (ii) Complex and technology- intensive of Modern platforms;
- (iii) External and internal factors accounting for Defence Planning;
- (iv) Invention of methodology known as Integrated Capability Development System (ICATS);
- (v) Capability planning process which includes RMOD directive, net assessment, environment scan, SWOT analysis, etc.
- (vi) Reviewing of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP) by headquarters IDS;
- (vii) Annual acquisition plan for all the acquisitions;
- (viii) Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020 for Defence Procurement Policy;
- (ix) Fundamental Philosophy for acquisition process;
- (x) Defence Acquisition Policy which aims to ensure timely procurement of defence equipment to meet the operational requirements;
- (xi) Priority of procurement of defence equipments;
- (xii) Basic categories for classification of acquisition process i.e. pre-AoN and Post-AoN;
- (xiii) Three pillars of Atmanirbharta i.e. Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India and ease of doing business;
- (xiv) Push for domestic defence ecosystem in FY 2024-25;
- (xv) Indigenization of various weapons and platforms including missiles, submarines, LCA, etc.;
- (xvi) Promotion of 'Make in India' aspects in domestic production ;

- (xvii) Transparency in the defence acquisition process;
- (xviii) Ensuring level playing field between the DPSUs and the Private Players;
- (xix) Recent initiative in DAP;
- (xx) Development of domestic defence ecosystem through enhanced avenues and increase vendor base.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Department of Military Affairs and the Army came in)

8. The Chief of Defence Staff gave an overview of the working of the three forces following which a Power Point presentation on the Army was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

- (i) Territorial Integrity maintaining by Army;
- (ii) Counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in the country;
- (iii) Equipment and infrastructure deployment in border areas;
- (iv) Combating proxy war by Army;
- (v) Logistic operations in High Altitude Areas;
- (vi) Infrastructure development in northern and western borders;
- (vii) Induction of state-of-the art weapon system and platforms;
- (viii) Realistic training in all terrains by Army;
- (ix) Training of Army with friendly foreign countries;
- (x) Contribution of Army in Military Diplomacy;
- (xi) Role of women officers in Army;
- (xii) Contribution of Army in natural disaster and calamities;
- (xiii) Features of Vibrant Village Programme;
- (xiv) Budgetary allocation to Army;
- (xv) Contribution in sports by Army;
- (xvi) Role of Army towards humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities
- (xvii) Medical assistance and care of veterans;
- (xviii) Modernization through induction of indigenous weapons and platforms;
- (xix) Schemes to enhance security infrastructure, surveillance, research and development and fighting abilities of Army.

(The officials of Army then withdrew and officials of Air Force came in)

9. Thereafter, a Power Point presentation on the Air Force was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

- (i) Integrated Air Command and Control System;
- (ii) Upgradation of Fighter Aircrafts upto 4th Generation capability;
- (iii) Indigenous upgradation of Su-30MKI;
- (iv) Shortage of authorized squadrons strength;
- (v) Study to analyze the major reasons for the delay of LCA;
- (vi) Joint air-ground-sea exercises;
- (viii) Role of women officers in combat units;
- (ix) Promoting and commitment for Atmanirbharta in Air Force;
- (x) Role of Air Force towards human assistance and disaster relief operations;
- (xi) Decline in accident rates in Air Force;
- (xi) Increase in Budget Estimate (BE) for the year 2024-25 as compared to the previous year 2023-24.

(The officials of Air Force then withdrew and officials of Navy came in)

10. Consequently, a power point presentation on the Navy was also made before the Committee following which deliberations on the following issues were held:

- (i) More allocation in Budget Estimates, Capital Budget and Revenue Budget of 2024-25 in comparison to Budget Estimates, Capital Budget and Revenue Budget of 2023-24;
- (ii) Maritime threats and challenges from traditional and non traditional sources;
- (iii) Area of operations of Navy to Africa and Australia continents;
- (iv) Bilateral and Multilateral exercises with friend foreign countries;
- (v) IOR maritime information hub linkages with 25 national and 50 multinational centres;
- (vi) Role of Navy in Multi-National contracts;
- (vii) 'Milan 24' Biennial exercise conducted at Visakhapatnam;
- (viii) Anti-piracy operations by Navy;
- (ix) Anti-Narcotics Operations by Navy;
- (x) Role of women officers in Navy;
- (xi) Promotion of Atmanirbharta through various projects like TEDBF and DBMRH;

(The officials of Navy then withdrew and officials of Joint Staff came in)

11. Following the discussion on the Navy, a power point presentation on Joint Staff was made. Members raised various queries related to the following:

- (i) Promoting jointness and integration of Armed Forces;
- (ii) Formulation of policy on Joint Op Capabilities, Training and Functional aspects;
- (iii) Financial planning and oversight of joint staff organizations;
- (iv) Defence Crisis Management Group for coordination of Armed Forces during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations;
- (v) Coordination of strategic defence intelligence
- (vi) Integrated Capability Development Plan for promoting jointness in procurement, implementing capital acquisitions plans of the services with a focus on achieving Atmanirbharta.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of the Ministry of Defence and Indian Coast Guard came in)

12. After a brief introduction of the officials of Indian Coast Guard, a Power Point Presentation on the working of Indian Coast Guard was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

- (i) Less allocation in BE 2024-25 as compared to BE 2023-24;
- (ii) Safety and protection of artificial islands and offshore oil terminals;
- (iii) Protection of fishermen including assistance at sea;
- (iv) Preservation and protection of marine environment;
- (v) Prevention and control of marine pollution;
- (vi) Assist customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations;
- (vii) Safety of life and property at sea;
- (viii) Assist in collection of scientific data;
- (ix) Enforcement of maritime enactments.

(The officials of Indian Coast Guard then withdrew and officials of Directorate General Defence Estates came in)

13. Followed by brief introduction of the officials of Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), a Power Point Presentation on the working of Defence Estates Organisation was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

- (i) Increase in Revised Estimates allocation to DEO for 2022-23;

- (ii) Provisions relating to Municipal Administration of notified cantonments, land acquisition, post acquisition, land survey, etc.;
- (iii) Duties of cantonment Board i.e. sanitation, drains and sewerage, water supply, primary education health, roads and street lights, etc.;
- (iv) Status of cantonment board schools;
- (v) Infrastructure and facilities in cantonment board hospitals;
- (vi) Environment and waste management works;
- (vii) Industrial training institutes in cantonment Board;
- (viii) Features of eChhawani portal;
- (ix) New initiatives i.e. polythene Kachra Bank and E-Waste Drives/Bank
- (x) Proposal from the State Government for provision of Defence Land;
- (xi) Issues such as access to roads etc. faced by general public in Cantonment areas and efforts for resolution of these issues;
- (xii) Enforcement of building laws in cantonment area;
- (xiii) Policy regarding handing over of Defence institutions to civil municipal bodies adjoining the cantonment areas.

(The representatives of Directorate General Defence Estates withdrew and representatives of Border Roads Organization came in)

14. After a Brief introduction of the officials of Border Roads Organization (BRO), a Power Point presentation on Border Roads Organization was made. The deliberations were held on the subject on following points:

- (i) Budgetary figures for BRO for 2024-25;
- (ii) Role of BRO during the peace and in war periods;
- (iii) Involvement of Government Agencies like NHAI, CPWD, NHIDCL, State PWD by BRO;
- (iv) Challenging terrain, unfavourable climate and difficult security situation faced by BRO;
- (v) Initiation of Engineering Procurement and Construction to boost efficiency;
- (vi) Strategic projects being executed in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Ladakh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (vii) Leverage in technology like use of steel slag and rejuvave technology for road construction; and
- (viii) Sharing of expertise and knowledge with Public Works Department of various State Governments.

15. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information (which was not readily available) to the Secretariat expeditiously.

16. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE (2024-25)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 26 November, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1730 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3. Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4. Shri Ranjit Dutta
5. Shri Mohamad Haneefa
6. Ms Jothimani
7. Shri Ravindra Shukla alias Ravi Kishan
8. Shri Shashank Mani
9. Shri Lumba Ram
10. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
11. Shri Jagadish Shettar
12. Shri Virendra Singh
13. Shri Kesineni Sivanath
14. Com. Selvaraj V.
15. Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

16. Shri Naresh Bansal
17. Shri N. Chandrasegharan
18. Shri Naveen Jain
19. Shri Muzibulla Khan
20. Shri Praful Patel
21. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
22. Shri Sanjay Singh
23. Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Tirthankar Das — *Director*

LIST OF WITNESSES Ministry of Defence

Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)

	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar,	FA(DS)
3.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	AS, DoD
4.	Shri Shalabh Tyagi,	JS(P&C)
5.	Shri Rajeev Prakash,	JS(NS)
6.	Shri Amit Satija,	JS(DIP)
7.	Shri A. B. Pradhan, Dir (HR)	Director (HAL)
8.	Shri B Senapati, Dir (Fin)	Director (Finance)
9.	Shri Manoj Jain,	CMD (BEL)
10.	Cmde A Madhavarao,	CMD (BDL)
11.	Shri Shantanu Roy,	CMD (BEML)
12.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jha,	CMD (MIDHANI)
13.	Cmde P R Hari,	CMD (GRSE)
14.	Mr. Biju George,	Director (MDL)
15.	Shri Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay,	CMD (GSL)
16.	Cmde Hemant Khatri,	CMD (HSL)
17.	Sanjay Kumar,	Addl. FA(SK) & JS
18.	Shri Amitabh Ranjan Sinha,	Addl. FA & JS
19.	Subhash Kumar	DS(Budget)

Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services)

	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar,	FA(DS)
3.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	AS, DoD
4.	Dr. Garima Bhagat,	JS (LS)
5.	Shri Sanjeev Gupta,	DGO(C&S)
6.	Shri Prakash Agarwala,	Dir. (Finance) MIL
7.	Shri Sanjay Dwivedi,	CMD AVANI
8.	Shri Rajesh Choudhary,	CMD AWEIL, TCL
9.	Shri Gurudutta Ray,	CMD YIL
10.	Shri G C. Agnihotri	CMD IOL
11.	Shri Sunil Date,	CMD GIL
12.	Ms. Sunita Mansukhani,	DDG (Budget)
13.	Shri Sanjay Mehrishi,	DDG (NDCD)
14.	Sanjay Kumar,	Addl. FA(SK) & JS
15.	Shri Amitabh Ranjan Sinha,	Addl. FA & JS
16.	Shri Eddie Lalrinliana Khawlhing	Addl. FA & JS
17.	Subhash Kumar	DS(Budget)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Dr. Samir Venkatpati Kamat,	Secretary, DDR&D
2.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	AS, DoD
3.	Dr. Subrata Rakshit,	DS & DG (TM) & DG (SAM)

4.	Dr. Manu Korulla,	OS & DG (R&M)
5.	Dr. (Ms) Chadrika Kaushik,	OS & DG (PC&SI)
6.	Shri Vedveer Arya,	Addl FA & JS
7.	Shri Sunil Sharma,	OS & Director, DPARO&M
8.	Dr. Sumit Goswami,	Sc 'G' & Director, P&C
9.	Shri Sugata Ghosh Dastidar,	FA(DS)
10.	Shri Sanjay Kumar,	Addl. FA(SK) & JS
11.	Shri Saurabh Shukla,	Scientist 'F' & Associate Director DPARO&M
12.	Subhash Kumar	DS(Budget)

Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)

	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Dr Niten Chandra,	Secretary, ESW
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar,	FA(DS)
3.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	AS, DoD
4.	Dr Pudi Hari Prasad,	Jt. Secy (ESW)
5.	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik,	AG
6.	V Adm Sanjay Bhalla,	COP
7.	AVM Updesh Sharma,	VSM ACAS (Accts & AV)
8.	#*Brig DS Basera,	Secretary KSB
9.	Smt. Devika Raghuvanshi,	CGDA
10.	Maj. Gen Manoj Natrajan,	MD ECHS
11.	Maj Gen SBK Singh	DG(R)
12.	Eddie L. Khawlhing	Addl. FA & JS
13.	Shri Subhash Kumar	DS(Budget)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them of the agenda for the Sitting i.e. oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate upon Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services)-New DPSUs, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25.

4. Later, drawing attention to Direction 55(1) of the Direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representatives of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

5. After formal introduction, the Secretary, Defence Production initiated the discussion by highlighting the works of the department which includes production of defence equipment in country, incorporating the components of indigenization, export of defence products, inclusion of new technologies in defence and creating an ecosystem of defence manufacturing wherein MSMEs, Start-Ups and private sector can participate . The highlights of the brief given by the Secretary are as under:

- (i) Defence manufacturing increase three fold to Rs. 1,27,264 crores in the year 2023-24 from Rs. 43,746 crores in the 2013-14:
- (ii) Export of defence products increased up to Rs 21,000 crores in the year 2023-24 from Rs. 686 crores in the 2013-14 ;
- (iii) Substantial steps taken towards 'Make in India' and achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- (iv) A new portal ' Srijan' has been launched to promote indigenization by participation of MSMEs and Start ups. On this portal 32,000 defence components were listed for indigenization out of which process of indigenization of 12-13,000 components have been done. It is likely to be increased drastically by 2028-29. Consequently import of such components will be stopped.

(v) Increase in R&D Budget

6. Thereafter, a Power Point Presentation was made by the representatives of nine Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) *i.e.* Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Goa Shipyard Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, BEML Limited and Hindustan Shipyard Limited. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(xviii) Financial Data comprising turnover and profit made by said DPSUs;

(xix) Status of Order Book Positions of DPSUs;

(xx) Various measures undertaken to increase export and minimize import;

(xxi) Modernisation activities taken by all DPSUs;

(xxii) Measures taken towards indigenization and achieving 'Atma Nirbharta';

(xxiii) Initiative taken for technological advancements in light of latest warfare techniques.

(xxiv) Optimum focus on investment in research and Development;

(xxv) Share of FDI and FII in DPSUs along with foreign investment by DPSUs;
and

(xxvi) Utilisation of CSR fund.

(The representatives of the DPSUs then withdrew and representative of Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services) came in.)

7. After introduction of the representative of Directorate of Ordnance (Cord. & Serv.), a brief overview regarding seven new DPSUs was presented by the Secretary. Then representatives of new DPSUs made a Power Point Presentation before the Committee. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(xii) Types of products being manufactured by these new DPSUs;

(xiii) Financial performance comprising turnover and profit made by these new DPSUs;

(xiv) Status of Order Book Positions;

(xv) Challenges in transfer and merger of employees;

(xvi) Financial Assistance being given by Government to these DPSUs;

- (xvii) Diversification in products being manufactured ;
- (xviii) Merger of existing seven DPSUs to synchronize their productions;
- (xix) Various initiatives being taken towards technology upgradation;

The Chairperson commended their journey despite several challenges being faced by new DPSUs.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) came in.)

8. The representatives of the Department commenced their briefing through a Power Point presentation. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) Armed Forces Veterans (Ex-Servicemen) including pensioners;
- (ii) Armed Forces Veterans (Ex-Servicemen) Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) along with services provided by the Poly clinics;
- (iii) Initiatives undertaken for the welfare of ESM through Directorate General of Resettlement;
- (iv) Function of Kendriya Sanik Bords;
- (vi) Status and beneficiaries of Marriage Grants and Children Education Grants;
- (vii) Challenges to generate employment for ESM and measures undertaken to resolve them;
- (viii) Measures taken for stress management and mental health of ESM;

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) came in.)

9. The Secretary, DRDO gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following:

- (i) An overview of functions of DRDO;
- (ii) New initiative taken to meet changing requirements in defence sector;
- (iii) Technology Development Fund;
- (iv) Opening of Centre of Excellence for promotion of R&D in academia;
- (v) Initiative to Atma Nirbhar Bharat in defence technologies and systems;

- (vi) Induction of women scientists;
- (vii) Upgradation in drone detection and anti missile technology;
- (viii) Progress in landmine detection;
- (ix) Investment in R&D;
- (x) Monitoring of ongoing projects for timely delivery; and
- (xi) Vacancy and attrition rates in DRDO.

10. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the DRDO for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information to the Secretariat expeditiously.

11. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 12th December, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1515 hrs. in Committee Room No. '53', Samvidhan Sadan , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Ranjit Dutta
5	Captain Viriato Fernandes
6	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
7	Ms. S. Jothimani
8	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
9	Shri Shashank Mani
10	Shri Lumba Ram
11	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
12	Shri Jagadish Shettar
13	Shri Virendra Singh
14	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
15	Com. Selvaraj V.
16	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

17	Shri Naresh Bansal
18	Shri N. Chandrasegharan
19	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
20	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
21	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1.	Dr. Sanjeev Sharma	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Tirthankar Das	-	Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them about the agenda for the Sitting. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports:-

- (i) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Directorate General Defence Estates, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)';**
- (ii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';**
- (iii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning (Demand No. 21)';**
- (iv) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services–New DPSUs) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';**
- (v) **Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Forty-Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'A Review of the Working of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'; and**
- (vi) **Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'A Review of Functioning of Zila Sainik Boards in the Country'.**

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above reports without any modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament on a date convenient to him.

5. ***Does not pertain to the Report***

The Committee then adjourned.