

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that slow procurement process to replace ageing fighter aircraft is compromising the operational preparedness of IAF;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved any new procurement procedure for procurement of weapons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and how the new system compares with the old one in essential details?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR 18.12.2003

The Indian Air Force has formulated a modernization plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength in terms of quality as well as quantity. Plans are in hand to augment the squadron force level by upgradation of the existing fleet and replacement of ageing fighter aircraft. Government is committed to maintain full defence preparedness at all times.

Government have recently promulgated the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) to ensure expeditious procurement for approved requirements for the Armed Forces in terms of capability sought and timeframe prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources. The methodology of procurement aims at highest degree of probity, public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality.

Government have also approved a Fast Track Procedure for procurement of defence equipment, which, in the opinion of the Chief of the concerned Service, is required to meet urgent operational needs.

In comparison to the old procedure, the new procedure caters for joint planning by the Services leading to inter/intra Services prioritization of equipment and expenditure. It will ensure commonality of equipment leading to centralized procurement through a dedicated, newly created Acquisition Wing in the Ministry of Defence. Apart from the detailed procedural steps, a comprehensive standardized Request For Proposal (RFP) has been prepared under the new procedure for procurement of equipment both through 'Buy' or 'Buy and Make' options.