

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER ADMIRAL GORSHKOV
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed a defence deal with Russia for procurement of aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and features of the aircraft carrier;
- (c) the amount involved therein;
- (d) whether Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov was not designed to be a conventional aircraft carrier and it is suitable only for conversion to a Helicopter carrier;
- (e) if so, whether Russians wanted to use it with conventional jet fighters like the MIG 29, but dropped the idea as impractical;
- (f) if so, how MIG-29K will be able to operate effectively from this aircraft carrier;
- (g) whether according to the Russian Navy Commander this ship is not resembling operational condition and everything depends upon the quality of the refit; and
- (h) if so, the reasons for acquisition of this aircraft carrier?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 350 FOR 5.2.2004

Contracts and supplementary agreements comprising of repair and re- equipping, logistic supports, shore infrastructure, training of ships` crew, repair and technical documents etc. were signed with Russia on 20th January, 2004 for acquisition of `Admiral Gorshkov`. Main features of Admiral Gorshkov are enclosed. The cost of repair and modernization of Admiral Gorshkov including Logistic Support, Training and Documentation is Rs. 4882 crores.

2. The Ship is a `Heavy Aircraft Cruiser`, which will be, after its refit and modernisation, converted into an Aircraft Carrier capable of operating both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. The ship was originally designed for operating Vertical Short Take Off and Landing (VSTOL) aircraft and helicopters. The Carrier is being re-equipped with a Ski Jump and an Arrestor Gear System to cater for the Take off and Landing of the aircraft with a view to enable it to operate MiG 29K Aircraft to suit the requirements of the Indian Navy. In addition, Aviation facilities to cater for its sustained operations are being created on the ship for effective exploitation of the aircraft.

3. The ship having been laid off for the last 8 years, deterioration has occurred in the hull and systems of the ship. The condition of the ship, however, has been assessed by delegations, who have ascertained that the ship once re-equipped and modernized, would be capable of effective service life of about 20 years.

4. After the decommissioning of INS Vikrant in 1977, presently, only one Aircraft Carrier viz. INS Viraat is in service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of 2 operational Aircraft Carriers. The Air Defence Ship approved by the Government in 1999, is likely to enter service in 2011-2012. Anticipating the critical void due to marginal residual life of INS Viraat and the operational availability of ADS by 2011-2012, the Government has approved acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov, the Aircraft Carrier.

ENCLOSURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT GIVEN IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 350 FOR 5.2.2004

MAIN FEATURES OF ADMIRAL GORSHKOV

@ Length overall	283.5 meter
@ Breadth, overall	59.8 meter
@ Depth from base line to the upper deck in the middle	21.6 meter
@ Standard displacement	34,000 tonnes

@ Full load displacement 45,300 tonnes

@ Operational range 7,000 Nautical Miles

@ The Aircraft Carrier can accommodate a combination of Aircraft and Helicopters for attack, surveillance, search and rescue operations.