

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1248

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000

PRODUCTION OF AIR DEFENCE SHIP

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have dropped the plan for undertaking the production of a 20,000 tonne air defence ship;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government now plan to undertake production or procure a 30,000 tonne aircraft carrier;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to meet the emerging needs of the Navy; and
- (e) the progress made to fill up the gap developed due to discarding of INS 'Vikrant' and 'Virat'?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): Government have approved the construction of an air defence ship at the cost of Rs.1551.64 crores. The ship is to be constructed by M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin for which a letter of intent has been issued in May 1999. The design specifications of the ship are being finalised.

INS Virat has not been decommissioned. Only INS Vikranthas been decommissioned. The construction of an air defence ship has already been approved by the Government in replacement of INS 'Vikrant'.