

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5218
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
MODERNISATION OF AIR COMBAT SYSTEM
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's plan to modernise and replenish its depleting air combat strength has been jeopardised due to certain lapses alleged to have been committed by his Ministry;
- (b) whether despite having spent Rs. 2432 crore on the purchase, the Air Force is likely to live with a depleted combat strength for at least two years;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken to meet the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d): The IAF has a modernisation plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength both in terms of quality and quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squadron force levels.