

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4956

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010

SQUADRON STRENGTH OF AIR FORCE

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Air Force is grappling with the sharp decline in its squadron strength;
- (b) if so, the present position of fighter squadrons against the sanctioned strength;
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for competitive squadron strength;
- (d) whether two thirds of the aircraft fleet of Air Force has become obsolete;
- (e) if so, the action plan for life extension of the existing fleet of the Air Force to match the capabilities attained by the neighbouring countries;
- (f) the reasons for the delay in procurement of new aircraft; and
- (g) the long-term plan for strengthening of Air Force?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): The Government constantly reviews the security environment to ensure adequate defence preparedness and combat strength of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The IAF is in the process of modernizing its fleet by procuring various aircraft including the Sukhoi-30 MKI, the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Aircraft Warning & Control System aircraft and Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft to increase its combat strength.

(d) & (e): No, Madam. In addition to the above procurements, the existing fleet of MiG-29, AN-32 and IL-76 are undergoing life extension.

(f) & (g): Procurement proposals are processed in accordance with the Defence Procurement procedure which envisages a time frame of two to three years for finalization of such proposals. The IAF has prepared a Long Term Perspective Plan 2012-2027 which provides the road map for development and growth of the IAF taking into account the security environment and technological advancements.