

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1993
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
PROCUREMENT OF REFUELLER AIRCRAFT
Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mid-air refueller aircraft with Indian Air Force at present;
- (b) whether the Indian Air Force has required six more such aircraft in its fleet;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the requirement is likely to be fulfilled; and
- (d) the reasons for cancellation of earlier Request For Proposal (RFP) issued in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): The requirement of aircraft is periodically reviewed and it is ensured that the operational requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF) are met. A fresh Request For Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of six new Flight Refuelling Aircraft for the IAF was issued on 16th September, 2010. The proposal is being progressed in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2008. The Defence Procurement Procedure envisages a timeline of upto two and a half years from the date of issue of RFP to signing of the Contract in multi-vendor cases.

(d) The earlier proposal for the procurement of six Flight Refueller Aircraft was progressed in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2006 and thereafter referred to the Ministry of Finance, who had expressed certain reservations relating to the competitiveness of the bids and the reasonableness of the price. It was therefore decided to withdraw the RFP and issue a fresh RFP.