

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3190  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010  
SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL IN AIR FORCE  
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**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) is facing shortage of pilots and personnel below officers rank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred on training of fighter pilots during their entire service period;
- (d) whether there are agreements with pilots restricting them to complete at least 20 years of service in IAF; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The available strength of pilots and personnel below officers rank in Air Force is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements of the Indian Air Force. There is no significant shortage of personnel below officer rank. However, vacancies including newly created posts are filled up in a phased manner.

(c) to (e): The ab initio cost of training of a fighter pilot in Indian Air Force at 2008-2009 rates is Rs.1370.49 lakhs approximately. While there is no agreement with a pilot which restricts him to complete at least 20 years of service, officers in the IAF are expected to serve till superannuation.