

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

MODERNISATION OF AIR FORCE

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Deora Shri Milind Murl; Ganeshamurthi Shri A.; Jagannath Dr. M.; Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal; Maharaj Shri Satpal; Mandal Shri Mangani Lal; Panda Shri Prabodh; Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai; Ram Shri Purnmasi; Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa; Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fifty per cent of the equipment and technologies of Indian Air Force is obsolete as reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the existing number of different variants of aircraft and other major equipment alongwith the year of their induction;
- (d) the details of funds under capital outlay meant for modernization of the armed forces earmarked/surrendered during the last three years;
- (e) the level of preparedness of the armed forces including the Air Force to face the emerging security challenges in view of the said position;
- (f) the steps being taken to replace/upgrade the ageing equipment and aircraft and meet the shortage of officers in the Air Force at the earliest; and
- (g) the details of Perspective Plan prepared for modernisation of the armed forces including the Air Force?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Every Indian Air Force Equipment has a specified life. Once the life term is complete, the equipment is considered obsolete. The IAF is continuously modernizing its fleet of equipment by phasing out the obsolete equipment upgrading/ extending the life of equipment (where technically feasible) and procuring new equipment.

(c) It is not in the interest of the security of the country to divulge information on existing number of Aircraft & other equipment along with their year of induction.

(d) The allocation of funds under capital procurement is based on the requirement of the armed forces. A statement detailing funds under capital outlay meant for modernization of the armed forces earmarked/expenditure incurred during the last three years is Annexed.

(e) The Armed forces are fully prepared to meet the emerging security challenges.

(f) Obsolete equipment like MiG-23, MiG-25 and Canberra Aircraft have been phased out. Existing fighters like MiG-27, MiG-29, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, Su-30 MKI, transport aircraft like An-32 and various helicopters are being upgraded in a phased manner. Also various fighters, transport aircraft, helicopters, radars and missile systems are being procured in a phased manner to meet the requirements of armed forces.

To mitigate the shortage of officers in the Air Force, the IAF is undertaking a series of steps including conduct of Fast track selection in various universities, re-introduction of University Entry Scheme for Aeronautical Engineering Branch, advertisements in Print & Electronic Media and publication of recruitment and career related articles and encouragement to NCC Cadets to join IAF.

(g) The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff in consultation with the Service Headquarters formulates the 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP), the 5 year Defence Plans and the Annual Acquisition Plans for the Armed Forces based on threat perception and operational challenges. The LTIPP 2002-2017 is under implementation.