

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:229

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Dashmuni Deepa ;Mani Shri Jose K.;Mishra Shri Mahabal

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of aircraft carriers available with the Indian navy vis-à-vis its requirement at present;
- (b) the current status of procurement of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya (ex Admiral Gorshkov) from Russia;
- (c) the status of the indigenous project of manufacturing aircraft carrier named 'Air Defence Ship' being undertaken at the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi;
- (d) whether the infrastructure/technology created/developed for the said indigenous project is likely to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) The Indian Navy (IN) has one Aircraft Carrier i.e. INS Viraat. To maintain effective presence in our area of interest, IN should be capable of deploying Carrier Task Forces in two geographically separated locations.
- (b) The Refit and Modernisation works on board the Vikramaditya are progressing in an earnest manner. Consequent to signing of Supplementary Agreements in March, 2010, the Russian side has increased the manpower and material resources considerably for the Project. A majority of the equipment/systems have been installed on board the ship. The delivery of ship is scheduled in December, 2012.
- (c) Regarding the 'Air Defence Ship' being constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), 75% of hull work has been completed and is expected to be launched in December 2011, after which further works will be undertaken prior to commissioning.
- (d) & (e): Augmentation of infrastructure at CSL is underway. With the infrastructure and experience, Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-sized ships can be built at CSL. Additionally, Indian-manufactured warship quality steel is now available, which will reduce dependence on foreign countries.