

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:297

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011

HELICOPTERS FOR ANTI NAXAL OPERATIONS

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Panda Shri Baijayant

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to deploy multi-purpose helicopters in the naxal affected States for assistance in antinaxal operations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the break-up of the number of helicopters deployed, functional and those under maintenance;
- (c) whether several States including Odisha have urged the Union Government for provision of helicopters for controlling naxal menace in their respective State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.297 FOR 23.08.2011

(a) to (d): At present, a total of 09 helicopters of Indian Air Force and Border Security Force have been provided to support the security forces deployed in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. Out of these, 04 MI-17 helicopters of Indian Air Force are located at Chhattisgarh; 02 each at Raipur and Jagdalpur. Out of 05 Dhruva helicopters of BSF, 03 are placed at Raipur in Chhattisgarh (02 serviceable & 01 under 500 hrs major routine inspection) and 02 at Ranchi in Jharkhand (01 serviceable & 01 under 100 hrs routine inspection). These helicopters are available for use as per operational requirements in all LWE affected States, including Odisha.

The States of Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have also projected the requirement of dedicated helicopters to support the security forces deployed in LWE affected areas.

To meet the shortfall, the LWE affected States have been permitted to hire helicopters under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, on need basis. As per inputs, the State Governments of Maharashtra and Odisha have hired one helicopter each from Pawan Hans to support the security forces deployed in LWE affected areas of these States.