

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1121

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

INDO-RUSSIA DEFENCE DEALS

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Russia is still a big partner of India in defence deals;
- (b) if so, whether the recent visit of Russian President has resulted in several deals showing the growing friendship between the two countries;
- (c) if so, the number of deals signed during the visit;
- (d) the progress of the latest joint venture with Russia for development of a multi-role transport aircraft; and
- (e) the future strategy chalked out by both the countries in defence sector for cooperation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): The partnership between India and Russia in the defence sector is long standing and continues to be progressed on the basis of the mutual interests of both sides.

The proposed joint development and production of the Multi Role Transport Aircraft is one of the joint projects currently under progress, for which an Inter Governmental Agreement was signed on 12th November, 2007. A Joint Venture Company viz. Multi-role Transport Aircraft Limited (MTAL) has been incorporated in India in December, 2010 for implementation of this Project.

No defence deal was signed during the visit of the Russian President to India in December, 2010.