

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
FIELD FIRING RANGES
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the army is left with only about 40 operational Field Firing Ranges out of 104 which the army used to have for carrying out field firing to improve combat skills of the personnel;
- (b) if so, the reasons for sharp decline in the number of such ranges; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) The number of Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) has declined in the last decades from 104 to 66 (12 acquired and 44 notified ranges). 38 ranges have been deleted from the list of FFRs in 2009 due to their not being available (due to de-notification) on account of being declared as wild life sanctuaries or to their not being re-notified by the State Governments.

(b) Notified FFRs are required to be re-notified from time to time by respective State Governments after clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has been received. Due to increase in population, spread of habitation & development, encroachments, areas being declared as wild life sanctuary/reserve forests, and environmental pressures, the State Governments are often disinclined to renotify ranges in their jurisdiction.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made at all levels to ensure timely re-notification of the de-notified ranges. One time Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges as required by the respective State Governments have been paid in case of many ranges to ensure their long term re-notification and continued availability. In addition, efforts are on by the Army to impress upon the respective State Governments and MoEF the need for re-notification/acquisition of field firing ranges.