

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6054  
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012  
FIELD FIRING RANGES  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) in the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of FFRs at present as compared to its number a decade back; and
- (d) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken to meet the shortage of FFRs?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d): At present there are 66 Field Firing Ranges which include 12 acquired and 54 notified ranges. The number a decade ago was 104.

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) is received. Due to the increase in human population, the spread of habitation and general development, encroachments, areas being declared as wild life sanctuaries/reserve forests, and other environmental pressures, the State Governments find it more and more difficult to renotify ranges in their jurisdiction.

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