

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6077
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY OF NAVY
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the air combat capability of the Navy has weakened drastically as the available aircraft carrier is ageing and the replacement thereof is delayed;
- (b) whether the attack capability of the depleted fighter aircraft fleet and other arms and ammunition onboard the carrier has also been significantly eroded; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the air combat capability of the Indian Navy?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c) The combat capability of Sea Harriers has been enhanced through a mid life upgrade. Adequate stocks of arms and ammunition exist for the existing aircraft carrier. Fifteen new MiG 29K fighter aircraft have been inducted for carrier borne operations. These aircraft will operate from INS Vikramaditya, which is planned for induction in December 2012. Contract has been concluded for acquisition of additional 29 MiG 29K fighter aircraft to strengthen the air combat capability of the Navy.