

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2519

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

TRAINER AIRCRAFT IN IAF

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been forced to use virtually obsolete planes for years to train its pilots because of the huge delay in procurement of Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to procure BTA from Switzerland;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for selecting Swiss Basic Trainer Aircraft; and
- (f) the time by when the aircraft is likely to be delivered?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The HPT-32 aircraft being used as Basic Trainer Aircraft since 1986 were grounded in July 2009 due to safety reasons. Thereafter, the basic training has been shifted to Kiran Mk 1/1A aircraft earlier utilized for Intermediate training.

(c) & (d): A contract for procurement of 75 Basic Trainer Aircraft was signed with M/s Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, Switzerland on 24th May 2012.

(e) & (f): The case for procurement of the Basic Trainer Aircraft was processed through a multi-vendor procurement as per DPP-2008 and the Swiss company, M/s Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, emerged as the L1 vendor. The delivery of these 75 aircraft is scheduled from February 2013 to August 2015.