

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:682
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT OF AIR FORCE
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about half of the Indian Air Force (IAF) equipment is obsolete;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has ascertained the defence preparedness of the IAF and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures taken by the IAF to replace obsolete equipment with latest technology;
- (e) whether IAF is still facing shortage of officers; and
- (f) if so, the action taken to encourage youth to join IAF?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) & (b): Obsolescence management is a continuous process. Steps are taken to ensure that equipment is fit for operations and has the required combat capability.
- (c) IAF is capable of undertaking its assigned peace time as well as war time tasks effectively.
- (d) Modernization of IAF's fleet is part of the capability building which is an ongoing process. This is achieved by upgradation of its older fleets and induction of new weapon platform and systems.
- (e) As on 01.11.2012 there is a shortage of 882 officers in the IAF.
- (f) Several measures are taken to encourage the youth to opt for a career in IAF, including introduction of Fast Track Selections (FTS), conduct of career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements, motivational lectures in the schools, colleges etc. The IAF career website has been upgraded to enable online applications. The Selection process has also been simplified with the introduction of the Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT).