

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

MODERNISATION OF IAF

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

- (a) whether the modernization programme of Indian Air Force (IAF) including Procurement of 126 fighter aircrafts has been delayed for a long period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of operational and non-operational aircraft;
- (c) whether the Government has taken measures to expedite the implementation programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Indian Air Force proposes to conduct its biggest exercise, Livewire, during the current year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b):Modernisation of Indian Air Force (IAF) is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges, technological changes and available resources. The modernization of IAF is progressing as per the Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP 2012-2027) and Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). As per broad time-frame given in DPP, it takes about 2-3 years to complete the various stages of procurement and conclude the Contract. In respect of 126 MMRCA project, Contract negotiations are in progress with M/s Dassault Aviation, France, which emerged as the L-1 vendor. Divulgence of information on details of operational and non-operational aircraft may not be in national interest.

(c) & (d):To counter systemic and institutional delays, procedures and processes are continuously refined on the basis of experience gained during the procurement process. The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) provides an effective framework for expeditious procurement for modernization and to keep the Armed Forces in a state of operational readiness to meet any eventuality.

(e) & (f):Yes, IAF is planning to conduct Air Force level exercise during the month of March to April 2013 in two phases tentatively from 16th March to 26th March and 28th March to 4th April, 2013.