

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:937  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013  
FIELD FIRING RANGES  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Army has only 66 Field Firing Ranges (FFRs) at present against 104 FFRs 10 years ago;
- (b) if so, the reasons for dwindling number of FFRs for use by tank regiments, mechanized units artillery gun batteries and mortar fire parties; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide for adequate number of FFRs to Army for their use?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Notified FFRs are required to be re-notified from time to time as per their validity by respective State Governments and clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Due to increase in population, spread of habitation & development, encroachments, areas being declared as wild life sanctuary / reserve forests, and environmental pressures, the State Governments are often disinclined to re-notify ranges in their jurisdiction.

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