

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:311

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

USE OF HELICOPTER IN ANTI NAXAL OPERATIONS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the security forces engaged in fighting naxalism require helicopter to evacuate injured personnel during anti-naxal operations;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has agreed to provide MI-17 helicopter to the security forces; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): The availability of Helicopters acts as an important force multiplier and Helicopters are extremely useful to the Security Forces in casualty evacuation and movement of reinforcement in times of need.

At present, a total of 11 Helicopters of both Indian Air Force and Border Security Force have been provided to support the Security Forces deployed in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. Out of these, 06 MI-17 Helicopters of Indian Air Force are located at Ranchi in Jharkhand, Raipur and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh. Out of 05 Dhruva Helicopters of BSF, 03 are placed at Raipur and 02 at Ranchi. These Helicopters are available for use as per operational requirements in all LWE affected States.

In addition, the LWE affected States have been permitted to hire Helicopters under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, on need basis.