

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4504
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
VVIP HELICOPTER DEAL
Adhi Sankar Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had raised questions over the Indian Air Force (IAF) plan to hold the field evaluation trials of the Anglo-Italian Aw-101 and American Sikorsky S-92 helicopters in their home bases and not in Indian conditions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) had also asked the IAF to review its decision in this regard and test the two choppers in Indian conditions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the IAF thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): The matter related to holding the Field Evaluation Trials (FET) of AW-101 and S-92 helicopters abroad at the vendor premises was first placed before the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) in its meeting held on 5.9.2007. The DPB in its meeting decided that the vendors should be asked to make the trial helicopters available in India and if they still had difficulties in doing so, the matter could be reconsidered. Both the vendors, however, continued to express their inability to provide their helicopters for FET in India stating that this would entail considerable delays on account of availability of suitably configured helicopters and the need to dismantle and reassemble them for transportation to India. Based on IAF's recommendations, the matter was again discussed in the DPB meeting on 31.10.2007. After due deliberations, the DPB recommended FET abroad at locations specified by the vendors. When this matter came to the Government, the rationale for conducting FET at vendors specified locations was questioned. The Air Headquarters, after examining the matter, responded that the conduct of FET abroad would have no shortfalls in the evaluation process, the trial team was fully competent to carry out the task assigned to it and that there were benefits of speedier execution of trials and exploiting the facilities of the vendors at their Flight Test Centres. The recommendations of the DPB were then approved by the competent authority.