

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4519
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
INS VIRAAT
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country does not have an aircraft carrier prowling on the high sea;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the country's solitary carriers INS Viraat is out of action for several months and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the INS Viraat can soldier on for another three to four years, if it is made refit; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): No Madam, one Aircraft Carrier is currently in commission. Repairs and refits are planned activities and a normal feature in the life of a ship. Adequate safeguards are in place to ensure that the operational capabilities of the Navy are not compromised during the time a ship is under refit. After completion of refit the life of a ship gets extended depending on the nature of refit. Viraat can soldier on for another three years.