

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3918
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
REFUELLING AIRCRAFT FOR AIR FORCE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to purchase mid-air refuelling aircraft to meet its urgent requirement;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the matter is pending with the Finance Ministry;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay in clearance to purchase these aircraft; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): The Indian Air Force (IAF) had proposed the procurement of six Flight Refueller Aircraft to meet the growing Air-To-Air Refueling tasks in the IAF and Indian Navy. The procurement proposal had been progressed in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure-2006 and thereafter referred to the Ministry of Finance who has expressed certain reservations relating to the competitiveness of the bids and the reasonableness of the price. The Defence Procurement Procedure envisages a time line of up to two and a half years from the date of issue of Request for Proposal to signing of the contract in multi-vendor cases. Every effort is made to adhere to these time lines.