

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3029
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
REPLACEMENT OF KIRAN AIRCRAFT
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the phasing out of Kiran MK-I was scheduled to begin in 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Air Force has decided to extend the use of ageing Kiran MK-I trainer aircraft by another four years as it has not yet been replaced by indigenous Intermediate Jet Trainer aircraft; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): The Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) is planned to replace Kiran Mk-I. Due to repeated revisions in the time line set for the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) of IJT, and also considering the present state of the project regarding induction of the IJT in Indian Air Force (IAF), it has been decided to extend the use of Kiran Mk-I.

After the study of the fatigue life spectrum of Kiran Mk-I aircraft, the Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (Aircraft) has recommended extension of Total Technical Life of the aircraft. This will help IAF to utilize the fleet till 2017-18, though in gradually reducing numbers.