

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

DEDICATED AIR SUPPORT FOR ITBP

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide dedicated air support to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force for its border outposts in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard;
- (d) the time by which ITBP is likely to get dedicated air support; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the border outposts in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. Approval has been accorded to ITBP for wet leasing of 02 Light Helicopters to meet its operational air support requirements in J&K and Uttarakhand through tendering process.

The total expenditure likely to be incurred for wet leasing of 02 Helicopters is approximately Rs.40 Crore per annum.

(d): Dedicated air support is provided to ITBP through BSF MI-17 Helicopters as well as IAF Helicopters based on the availability of Helicopters to meet the operational requirement of the force on Indo-China border including J&K and Uttarakhand.

(e): The following steps have been taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the border outposts along Indo-China borders in the country:-

(i) Out of 35 newly sanctioned Border Out Posts (BOPs), 22 BOPs have already been opened along the Indo-China Border for strengthening existing border security. Remaining BOPs will be established by 2016. At present, ITBP is manning 163 BOPs which will be increased to 176 BOPs by 2016.

(ii) In order to improve the existing road connectivity and to enhance the troop's mobility, 27 ITBP priority roads are being constructed along Indo-China border.

(iii) With the aim to achieve connectivity to all ITBP BOPs and patrolling points/International passes, Government has approved 34 roads.

(iv) Further, 123 Mobile towers have been approved by the Government along the Indo-China Border to enhance the connectivity and border vigil.

(v) The critical infrastructure in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh are also being strengthen to enhance troop's mobility and border security in those areas.