

Cost of repair and maintenance of Mirage 2000

1884. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of service ability of Mirage 2000 has increased considerably; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to completely indigenise repair and maintenance of the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir. The increase in general terms is attributed to variation in exchange rate of French France vis-a-vis Indian Rupee and the normal rate of escalation, as provided for in the Mirage Contract. The increase in cost noticed during the past two years is due to some major modifications required on Mirage engines and repair of major avionics.

(b) Overhaul of Mirage 2000 aircraft is presently done at HAL (BC) and facilities for overhaul of aeroengines have also been set up at 4 BRD, AF. As a result major element of repair/overhaul is being done indigenously. All out efforts are being made to indigenise the aircraft spares.

Gifting of INS Vikrant

1885. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to gift INS Vikrant to Government of Maharashtra free of cost for converting it into a museum; and

(b) if so, by when actual handing over is going to take place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) A proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra for condoning Rs. 18.00 crores, being the scrap value of INS Vikrant, the decommissioned Aircraft Carrier of Indian Navy, and its conversion into a maritime museum has been agreed to. Further action in this regard is to be taken by Government of Maharashtra. The ship can be handed over by Indian Navy to Maharashtra Government as soon as Government of Maharashtra is ready to receive her.

Low capacity utilisation of Ordnance Factories

1886. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ordnance Factories under the DGOF/Ordnance Factories Board have not been utilising their installed capacities to the maximum;

(b) whether the private sector has been taking out the works at a higher cost causing losses to the nation and potentialities of employment resources;

(c) the details of each factory working under OFB with percentage of capacity utilisation during the past two years;

(d) whether Government would now direct the units to work with maximum capacity utilisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (e) Ordnance Factories provide a dedicated production base to Indian Defence Forces to meet their requirements of lethal and non-lethal stores. The extent of

capacity creation for production of an item is based on projection of its requirement by Armed Forces. Surplus capacity in respect of certain strategic products is also created to cater for surge requirements during war time. Capacity utilisation of Ordnance Factories (dates for last 2 years are shown in statement see below) is however subject to the fluctuations in the requirements of Armed Forces, the product mix and requirements of new generation of stores for which modifications in production lines need to be done.

No items are being off-loaded to private sector wherever adequate in house manufacturing capacity to meet the requirement of Armed Forces exists in Ordnance Factories. Private sector is mainly involved in supplies of materials, components and sub-assemblies.

To improve capacity utilisation, Ordnance Factories after meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces, also cater to the requirements of the para-military forces; the civil market and for export purposes.

Statement

Capacity Utilisation in ordnance factories for 96-97 and 97-98

S.No.	Factory	1996-97 (i) lakh hrs)			1997-98 (in lakh hrs)		
		Available capacity in SMH	SMH achieved	Capacity utilisation in %	Available capacity in SMH	SMH achieved	Capacity utilisation in %
WV & E DIVISION							
1	Rifle Factory, Ichapore	124.88	123.34	98.77	128.93	137.92	106.99
2	Small Arms factory, Kanpur ?	55.54	57.64	103.78	55.54	56.37	92.49
3	Ordnance Factory, Trichy	40.26	44.97	111.70	40.26	45.52	113.17
4	Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore	92.61	62.84	67.85	92.61	93.95	58.24
5	Ordnance Factory, Kanpur	96.04	45.96	47.86	96.04	52.11	54.33
6	Field Gun Factory, Kanpur	14.28	86.5	50.57	14.28	64.43	45.3
7	Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur	178.52	77.41	43.36	178.52	67.90	38.03
8	Gun Carriage Factory Jabalpur	98.20	49.50	50.41	98.20	48.34	49.23
9	Ordnance Factory, Dum Dum	27.36	19.47	71.16	27.36	19.51	71.31

10	Grey Iron Foundry, Jabalpur	34.55	32.92	94.98	34.66	26.10	75.30
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M & C DIVISION

11	Ordnance Factory, Katni	26.24	18.91	72.07	26.24	23.14	88.19
12	Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath	43.85	36.34	83.39	43.58	8.84	56.18
13	Metal & Steel Factory Ichapore	111.75	51.98	46.51	111.75	45.2	40.47
14	Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	43.65	36.63	33.92	43.65	41.80	5.75
15	Ordnance Cable Fac- tory Chandigarh	9.05	8.57	94.70	9.05	10.41	115.03
16	Ordnance Storey, Bhusawal	27.79	17.44	279	7.79	17.70	63.71
17	Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari	14.194	4.83	9.76	141.94	1.47	55.69
18	Machine Tool Proto- type Factory Ambar- nath	14.3	1249	7.70	14.23	12.91	90.72
19	Heavy Alloy Penetra- tor Project, Trichy	16.25	5.28	9	16.2	6.81	41.91

A/E DIVISION

20	Cordite Factory, ■ Arvankadu	75.64	22.99	30.39	75.64	30.79	40.71
21	High Explosive Fac- tory, Kirkee	11.09	7.49	57.54	11.09	7.90	71.24
22	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	12.34	12.28	99.51	12.34	9.41	76.25
23	Ammunition Factory, Kirkee	155.19	89.5	71.75	137.19	11.07	81.69
24	Ordnance Factory, Varangaon	53.88	39.22	7.79	53.88	45.95	85.6
25	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria	130.93	119.88	91.56	130.93	100.24	76.56
26	Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur	136.09	70.61	51.89	136.09	68.04	59.16
27	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road	18.73	.46	119.91	18.73	15.67	88.66
28	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	101.32	3.60	3.18	101.3	27.09	26.74
29	Ordnance Factory, Bolangir	5.46	..

O.E.F. DIVISION

30	Ordnance Equipment Fy., Kanpur	128.41	113.91	86.15	128.41	84.50	65.81
31	Ordnance Clothing Fy. Shahjahanpur	118.18	93.95	79.50	118.18	102.71	86.91
32	Ordnance Clothing Fy. Avadi	56.82	39.81	70.07	56.82	38.59	68.09
33	Ordnance Parachute Fy. Kanpur	48.86	45.31	92.73	48.86	47.1	96.43
34	Ordnance Equipment Fy. Hazratpur	9.27	10.73	115.72	9.27	12.77	137.72

A.V. DIVISION

35	Heavy Vehicle Fac- tory, Avadi	45.47	35.21	77.44	42.84	38.31	89.43
36	Ordnance factory Project, Medak	25.50	13.29	52.12	25.50	13.96	54.75
37	Engine Factory, Avadi	7.87	5.19	65.18	7.87	8.15	103.50
38	Ord Fy Dehradun	23.11	18.86	31	23.11	17.61	76.20
39	Opto Electronics Fy. Dehradun	19.85	9.73	48.02	19.88	12.31	62.02

Criteria for promotion to Chief of Army Staff

1887. **SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any specific undeclared stipulations ruling out the promotion of general officers belonging to particular religion or community; and

(b) if not, the reasons due to which no Sikh General Officer has been made Chief of the Army Staff in India so far, overlooking their tremendous performance during peace as well as war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Promotions in the Army are based on the record profile of the

officer and merits of the case. For appointment to the post of Chief of the Army Staff, the cases of all eligible officers (Army Commanders and Vice Chief of Army Staff) are considered and the selection is made having regard to the seniority, merit and suitability. No senior-most eligible officer belonging to the Sikh Community has been superseded for appointment to the post of the Chief of Army Staff.

High level inquiry against Defence personnel

1888. **MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Office has ordered an investigation against the top defence services personnel in the Army, Air Force and Navy;