

Acquisition of attack helicopters

1587. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the shortfall in the number and percentage of attack helicopters in the Indian Air Force with respect to the actual requirement;

(b) the percentage of helicopters in the existing fleet which have already completed their prescribed life as of now; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to acquire new helicopters and the prescribed time-frame for the same to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The requirement of Defence platforms for specific tasks, including helicopters, is reviewed from time to time on the basis of operational requirements. Accordingly, proposals for acquisition of new platforms are progressed, in accordance with extant procedures. All helicopters currently with the IAF are within the prescribed life.

Road infrastructure along border *vis-à-vis* China

†1588. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road infrastructure of the border areas of India is lagging behind in comparison to the development of road infrastructure in China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government is aware that China is undertaking infrastructure development in the border regions opposite India. Government is closely watching all such development.

73 roads have been identified as strategic border roads, 15 have been completed, 39 are scheduled for completion by 2013 and remaining 19 by 2016.

Energy efficiency in cantonment areas

1589. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the armed forces have taken a major initiative towards adopting energy efficiency and conservation in operations and cantonment complexes;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, including Andhra Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.