

Research Institute (SIPRI), India has become the largest importer of arms during 2007-11 and accounted for 10% of the global arms imports as compared to China's share of 5%.

(c) and (d) Procurement of arms and equipment for the Armed Forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges and available resources. The process is based on a 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP), five year Services Capital Acquisition Plan (SCAP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). Shortage of any weapons, is adequately addressed through indigenous production and import.

Expenditure required to meet the shortage of ammunition

4390. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of approximate expenditure necessary to meet the shortage in ammunition and equipment in the Indian Army; and

(b) the year by when Government can meet shortages?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Sir, a well structured planning process is in place for capability development and modernization of the Indian Army. Procurement of ammunition and equipment is carried out on a continuous basis as per the Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). By and large the equipment and ammunition in Indian Army is available in adequate quantity. However, shortages occur from time to time for which remedial action is taken. The Armed forces remain in a state of operational readiness to meet any eventuality.

Shortage of resources in Indian Air Force

†4391. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of resources in the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons why Government is making delay in meeting the shortage of training aircraft, simulator and fighter squadron and by when this acute shortage would be met; and

(d) the names of the airfields still having no landing facility along with the reasons therefor and by when these facilities would be made available to the Air Force by Government?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) Strengthening and modernization of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is an on-going process. In accordance with the Long Term Plans of the IAF, steps have been taken to procure additional fighter aircraft like the Su-30 Mk-I, Light Combat Aircraft and the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft as well as various categories of transport aircraft, helicopters and air defence systems. The existing fleet of Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguars, A.N-32 aircraft and Medium Lift Helicopters are being upgraded. The procurements also include Advanced Jet Trainers, Intermediate Jet Trainers, Basic Trainer Aircraft as well as simulators.

(d) Landing facilities are available at all the airfields of the IAF.

Welfare schemes for ex-servicemen

†4392. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes being run by Government for ex-servicemen who have been retired from the Ministry;

(b) the manner in which maintenance of widows or dependants and children of martyred and disabled war soldiers during the last three years has been/is done;

(c) whether Government has data-base of such families/and monitors them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) The details of welfare schemes for Ex-Servicemen are given in Statement-I. (*See below*)

(b) Widows, dependents and children of martyred and disabled war soldiers get liberalized/special/normal family pension as per their entitlement.

Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare in the Ministry of Defence is the Nodal Department for welfare of ex-servicemen, widows or dependents and children of martyred and disabled soldiers. Its attached offices namely Directorate General of Resettlement, Kendriya Sainik Board are working in this direction. Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards at the State and district level look into the condition of families of martyrs and disabled soldiers.

Besides this, Each service Headquarter has dedicated cell to look into welfare issues of widows, dependants and children of martyred and disabled war soldiers.

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