

Shortfall of attack helicopters

960. 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 Government 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) Procurement of aircraft, including helicopters, is an ongoing process. Steps are taken to meet the operational requirements of the defence forces keeping in view the evolving security challenges. No attack helicopter in the existing fleet of Indian Air Force has presently completed its prescribed life.

Pending defence projects waiting environmental clearance

961. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Defence projects are pending due to delay in appropriate clearance from the Ministry of Environment and forests (MoEF);

(b) if so, the number of such Defence projects awaiting clearance and the duration of their pendency; and

(c) whether Government has made efforts for streamlining of the process of appropriate environmental clearances on time with the MoEF and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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962. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: