

- (d) House Repair Grant ₹ 20,000/-
(Pensioner / Non-Pen upto Hav Rank)
- (e) Daughter's Marriage Grant (upto 02 Daughters)
(Pensioner / Non-Pen upto Hav Rank) ₹ 16,000/-
- (f) Widow Re-Marriage Grant
(Pensioner / Non-Pen upto Hav Rank) ₹ 16,000/-
- (g) Orphan Grant
(Pensioner / Non-Pen All Ranks) ₹ 1,000/- per month
(i) Daughters of ex-servicemen till she is married
(ii) One Son of ex-servicemen upto 21 years of age
- (h) Vocational Training Grant for Widows ₹ 20,000/- per month
(Pensioner / Non-Pen upto Hav Rank) (One Time)
6. Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme: For financially supporting degree level professional education for the wards of War widows (all ranks) and ESM (PBOR) ex-including Coast Guard personnel. The total 5500 scholarship are provided to eligible boy and girl the wards on equitable basis on merit for the duration of the courses. Priority is given to wards of War widows/War disabled Soldiers. The rates of Scholarship are as follows, which given full duration of the courses out of the fund provided by PMO NDF budget:-
- (i) ₹ 2000/ per month for boys.
(ii) ₹ 2250/-per month for girls.
7. Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme is available for the health care of war widows and their dependents.
8. Other benefits are :
- (a) Children's Education Concessions
(b) Rail Concessions and Air Travel Concessions
(c) Telephone Concessions

Offer for F/A-18 Super Hornet Fighter Jets by US

1010. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Defence establishment is showing keen interest in the American offer to supply F/A-18 Super Hornet fighters to IAF under the Make-in-India programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether IAF is down to just 33 fighter squadrons and the much-touted ₹60,000 crore acquisition of 36 French Rafale fighters is yet to be clinched, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether India is actively exploring the possibility of going in for the F/A-18 fighters manufactured by Boeing, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Various foreign companies, including Boeing, have expressed their interest for manufacturing fighter aircraft under Make-in-India.

India and France have agreed to conclude an Inter-Governmental Agreement on the supply of 36 Rafale Aircraft. Negotiations on the terms and conditions of the said supply, including total cost, actual delivery timelines and guarantee period have not been concluded.

Upgrading of airbases' security

1011. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to implement its plan for upgrading the security and plugging loopholes in the 54 large IAF airbases across the country following the Pathankot terror attack;

(b) whether it is a fact that IAF has also requested Government to help in clearing encroachments near its airbases across the country which poses threat to its airbases' security;

(c) whether IAF's comprehensive security proposal involving an expenditure of around ₹8,000 crore had to face financial constraints and therefore, being implemented in a phased manner; and

(d) a detailed report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Adequate measures are in place to ensure safety and security of the airbases. A security audit of all Air Force Stations in the country has been carried out. Some of the loopholes observed during the audit have been plugged. Upgradation of the security of the airbases depends upon the security environment and operational requirements of the Indian Air Force and is reviewed by Government from time to time.