

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) In the Army, Navy and Air Force women are recruited in the officer cadre only. The number of women officers in the Indian Army (excluding Medical, Dental and Nursing Branch), the Indian Air Force (excluding Medical and Dental Branch) and the Indian Navy recruited during the last three years, Service-wise, is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2014	104	57	155
2015	72	35	223
2016	69	43	108

(b) In 2011, the Government approved consideration of women Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs) for grant of permanent commission along with men SSCOs in specific branches in the three services *viz.* Judge Advocate General (JAG), and Army Education Corps (AEC) of the Army and their corresponding branches in Navy and Air Force, Naval Constructor in Navy and Accounts Branch in Air Force.

In March, 2016, approval has been accorded for induction of women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers as Pilots in Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) stream and in the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) cadre.

In the Indian Air Force since 1993, women officers have been inducted in all branches and stream as Short Service Commissioned Officers except in the fighter stream. However, IAF has revised Short Service Commission scheme to induct women into the fighter stream on experimental basis for five years. The first batch of three women officers was commissioned in the fighter stream in June 18, 2016.

In addition, steps like increasing tenure of women officers and improving promotional prospects in Army have been taken to increase participation of women in the Army.

Private partner in joint venture of Rafale aircraft

165. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for making Reliance Defence Limited, a private company as a joint venture partner in the purchase of 36 Rafale aircrafts from France, excluding Government controlled Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The current Offsets policy of the Defence Procurement permits the vendors to provide the details of their Indian Offset Partners (IOPs) either at the time of Seeking offset credits, or one year prior to discharge of offset obligations. The vendor / OEM is free to select his IOP.

Consultation of CCS on Rafale aircraft

166. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was consulted before or after the announcement of purchase of 36 Rafale aircrafts by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in France in 2015; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for procurement of 36 Rafale aircraft was signed with the French Government with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

Defence lands and buildings used for commercial purposes

167. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Total area (in sq. km.) of defence lands and the number of defence buildings that are being used for commercial purposes;

(b) the amount of revenue received from the above commercial use, every year during the last three years; and

(c) the details of utilization of revenue collected from this use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of ammunition in army's stock

168. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, despite concerns, there is no significant improvement in army's stocks of ammunition;