

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The strength of women officers serving the Indian Air Force (IAF) as on 01 September, 2020 is 1875 (One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five). Of these, 10 women officers are Fighter Pilots and 18 women officers are Navigators.

(b) Yes, Sir. After approval of Ministry of Defence, IAF commenced a Scheme for "Induction of Women SSC officers in Fighter Stream of Flying Branch" in 2016, under which 10 (Ten) women fighter pilots have been commissioned till date.

(c) Women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements within the laid down policy, which is reviewed from time to time.

Corporatisation of ordnance factories

816. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is corporatizing Ordnance Factories in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the strikes observed /loss estimated from such strikes so far; and
- (d) were the demands of workers taken into consideration so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Cabinet Committee on Security in its meeting held on 29.07.2020, has approved to convert Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence, into one or more than one 100% Government owned corporate entities, registered under the Companies Act 2013.

The Corporatisation of OFB will improve its autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies.

(c) On the issue of corporatization of OFB, the Federations of Defence Employees working in Ordnance Factories observed a Strike from 20/08/2019 to 25/08/2019. Strike marginally affected the normal production activities in all 41 factories for five working days. Normal production resumed across all factories from 26 August, 2019 onwards.

(d) The Department of Defence Production has been continually engaging with the Federations and Associations of Ordnance Factories with regard to their views on the said transformation. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of Defence to oversee and guide the entire process

of corporatisation of OFB, including transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits.

Airbases functioning in the country

817. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and number of Air bases functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal with Government to establish more Air bases in the country;
- (c) whether any places have been identified in the country for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) There are 86 military airbases functioning in the country. The details being strategic/sensitive in nature, it's disclosure is not in the interest of national security.

Sales of defence canteens

818. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual turnover of sales of defence canteens in the country;
- (b) whether the Ministry will consider using and selling through its stores only products made in India in the light of Prime Minister's appeal of 'vocal for local'; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The details regarding annual turnover of sales of defence canteens is tabulated below:—

Financial Year	Sales (₹ in crore)
2017-18	17190.98
2018-19	18917.23
2019-20	17588.27
2020-21	3692.10
	(upto Aug 2020)