

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

(2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)

**ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY, JOINT STAFF, EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY
HEALTH SCHEME AND DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL
SERVICES**

(DEMAND NOS. 20 AND 21)

EIGHTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2025 / Phalguna 1946 (Saka)

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(DEMAND NOS. 20 AND 21)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.3.2025.

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.3.2025.



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2025 / Phalguna 1946 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

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CHAIRPERSON

Lok Sabha

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj |
| 3 | Shri Karti P Chidambaram |
| 4 | Shri Adhikari Deepak Dev |
| 5 | Shri Ranjit Dutta |
| 6 | Captain Viriato Fernandes |
| 7 | Shri Rahul Gandhi |
| 8 | Shri Mohmad Haneefa |
| 9 | Shri S. Jagathratchakan |
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| 14 | Shri Bishnu Pada Ray |
| 15 | Shri Jagannath Sarkar |
| 16 | Shri Jagadish Shettar |
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| 18 | Shri Kesineni Sivanath |
| 19 | Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan |
| 20 | Com. Selvaraj V. |
| 21 | Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha |

Rajya Sabha

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 22 | Shri Naresh Bansal |
| 23 | Shri N. Chandrasegharan |
| 24 | Shri Shaktisinh Gohil |
| 25 | Shri Prem Chand Gupta |
| 26 | Shri Naveen Jain |
| 27 | Shri Muzibulla Khan |
| 28 | Shri Praful Patel |

29	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
30	Shri Sanjay Singh
31	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1.	Dr. Sanjeev Sharma	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Tirthankar Das	-	Director
3.	Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Anjorem Kerketta	-	Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Eighth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (Demand Nos. 20 and 21).'

2. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence were laid on 7th February, 2025 in Lok Sabha. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence on 17th February, 2025 and 18th February, 2025. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 12th March, 2025.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part II of the Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Defence and representatives of the Services/Organisations for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants.

5. The Committee also place on record their appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the Committee Secretariat.

**New Delhi;
12 March, 2025
21 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**RADHA MOHAN SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Defence**

REPORT

CHAPTER I

ARMY

The Committee are aware of the fact that the Indian Army is an important component of the Armed Forces. It safeguards the territorial boundaries of the country, preserves national interests and safeguards sovereignty, integrity and unity of our Nation. The challenges before Army include thwarting proxy wars, arresting internal threats, assist the Government and the people of India during all needs and crises such as natural disasters etc. The budgetary demands for Army are contained in Demand Nos. 20 and 21.

1.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Army for the year 2025-26, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and actual expenditure for Army during the last five years including 2024-25, separately for Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2025-26. The details submitted to the Committee are tabulated below:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	1,65,228.28	1,45,785.88	1,53,436.68	1,44,545.67	1,39,903.33
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
2023-24	1,84,989.60	1,81,371.97	1,97,628.57	1,95,032.23	1,91,597.63
2024-25	2,14,577.03	1,91,319.60	2,01,289.26	1,98,427.82	1,49,300.75
2025-26	2,14,727.72	2,06,200.00	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	50,373.60	32,462.38	39,019.17	33,283.28	26,320.93
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
2023-24	37,341.54	37,341.54	33,412.16	33,412.16	28,613.50
2024-25	35,664.95	35,664.95	34,670.21	34,226.95	22,128.47
2025-26	33,400.68	33,400.68	-	-	-

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

1.3 From the table 'A', it is evident that the Revenue budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. A major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Army. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2025-26, against Revenue Head, projection of Army was Rs. 2,14,727.72 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 2,06,200.00 crore, hence allocation lessened by Rs. 8527.72 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2024-25, under Revenue head, Army's projection was Rs. 2,01,289.26 crore and allocation made was Rs. 1,98,427.82 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 2861.44 crore, however, the expenditure incurred during FY 2024-25 was Rs. 1,49,300.75 crore.

Capital Budget

1.4 Capital Budget, as shown in table 'B', provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2025-26, Army's projection was Rs. 33,400.68 crore and the same amount was allocated to it. There is no deduction allocation *vis-a-vis* demand, though it is less than BE 2024-25 projection of Rs. 35,664.95 crore. In RE 2024-25, the projection of the Army was Rs. 34,670.21 crore and there was deduction in allocation by Rs. 443.26 crore. However, the expenditure incurred during FY 2024-25 was only Rs. 22,128.47 crore.

1.5 During oral evidence, on allocation of budget, the representative of Army apprised the Committee as under:

"Now, I come to the Indian Army Budget, 2025-26. I will now highlight the Budget allocation for the financial year 2025-26. The Indian Army has been allocated Rs. 2.41 lakh crore, representing a 5.48 per cent increase from the Budget Estimates of the previous financial year. This allocation will be utilized across two major categories -- the revenue component, which primarily covers operations, maintenance, and sustenance as well as the budget for salaries, risks, and hardship allowances; and the capital component which is designated for modernization and infrastructure development."

1.6 Further, in respect of Demand No. 20, the representative submitted:

"Now, I come to Demand no. 20 – Revenue Budget. The allocation of Rs. 2,07,872 crore is strategically designed to enhance our defence

capabilities and support our Armed Forces. Sir, Rs. 60,672 crore is allocated for vital expenditures on ammunitions, rations, fuel, clothing, equipment maintenance, transportation, supplies, and ex-servicemen contributory health scheme. This comprehensive funding ensures our personnels are well-equipped and cared for, reinforcing our commitment to maintenance of operational readiness and national security.

The operations, maintenance, and sustenance budget has seen an increase of Rs. 10,281 crore compared to the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2024-25. Sir, Rs. 1,47,200 crore is specifically set aside for salaries and allowances. This budget is strategically structured under six key categories ensuring that every allocation maximizes our operational readiness.

Now, I come to stores. A substantial 47 per cent of non-salary budget is dedicated to stores which are vital for maintaining our Army's effectiveness. This allocation supports critical needs such as ammunition, security-related equipment and the replacement of weapons and vehicles as well as essential supplies like ration, fuel, and clothing. These resources are fundamental to sustaining our Forces.

Now, I come to works. With 19 per cent of our budget focused on works, we prioritize the construction and maintenance of crucial infrastructure. This includes, field defences and logistic storage facilities as well as accommodation for our personnel in border areas and peace stations. These investments are essential for operational efficiency and soldier welfare.

The next point is transportation. We have allocated Rs. 5,400 crore for transportation, a key enabler for operational mobility. This funding will facilitate the efficient movement of units between operational and peace stations ensuring that our Forces remain agile for training and deployment. Transportation of our personnels and supplies via rail, air, sea, and road is critical to our success.

Now, I come to Rashtriya Rifle and Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme. Together these essential components receive approximately 15 per cent of the budget. This funding is critical to supporting specialized Forces and ensuring comprehensive healthcare for our veterans. The careful distribution and prioritization of these allocation reflect our commitment to meeting operational needs and addressing critical challenges effectively. This Budget is designed to reinforce our

capability and readiness and positioning us for success in our missions.”

1.7 In respect of Demand No. 21, the representative submitted the following:

“I will now cover the Indian Army allocation for capital expenditure as part of Demand no. 21. The Capital Budget has two components. The first is the modernization through the procurement of new equipment and weapon platforms which amounts to Rs. 26,100 crore or 78 per cent of the total allocation under the Capital Head.”

1.8 When the Committee desired to know about the expenditure towards the pace of reforms including expenditure on stores, weapon replacements, rations, fuel, clothing and other necessities, a representative of the Army submitted as under:-

“As far as the last question regarding the speed of reforms in the Armed Forces is concerned. The number of reforms which had been enunciated on the slides range from organizational, structural, manpower, conceptual. So, all these reforms are part of the package and some are being driven by the Army and some as part of jointness and integration.”

Percentage Share of Army Budget

1.9 When the Committee desired to know the percentage share of Army budget, both in Revenue and Capital segments, out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years, the Ministry furnished the following:

“Details of budget allocated at Budget Estimates (BE) stage to Army under Revenue and Capital Heads out of Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years and FY 2025-26 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	DSE	Army (Revenue)	%age share	Army (Capital)	%age share	Army (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2020-21	3,23,053.00	1,45,785.88	45.13	32,462.38	10.05	1,78,248.26	55.18
2021-22	3,47,088.28	1,47,644.13	42.54	36,531.90	10.53	1,84,176.03	53.06
2022-23	3,85,370.15	1,63,713.69	42.48	32,115.26	8.33	1,95,828.95	50.82
2023-24	4,32,720.14	1,81,371.97	41.91	37,341.54	8.63	2,18,713.51	50.54
2024-25	4,54,772.67	1,91,319.60	42.07	35,664.95	7.84	2,26,984.55	49.91
2025-26	4,91,732.30	2,06,200.00	41.93	33,400.68	6.79	2,39,600.68	48.73

1.10 Further, details of expenditure incurred by Army under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years (including FY 2024-25) are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	DSE#	Army (Revenue)	%age share	Army (Capital)	%age share	Army (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2020-21	3,40,093.51	1,39,903.33	41.14	26,320.93	7.74	1,66,224.26	48.88
2021-22	3,66,545.91	1,57,092.05	42.86	25,130.94	6.86	1,82,222.99	49.71
2022-23	3,99,123.44	1,70,019.87	42.60	36,616.19	9.17	2,06,636.06	51.77
2023-24	444,699.20	191,597.63	43.08	28,613.50	6.43	220,211.13	49.52
2024-25	3,03,446.29	1,49,300.75	49.20	22,128.47	7.29	1,71,429.22	56.49

Note:-

- (i) DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget.
- (ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.
- (iii) BE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.11 There is an evident decrease in percentage share of revenue budget of Army out of Defence Services Estimates from **45.13** per cent in 2020-21 to **41.93** per cent in 2025-26 and in capital budget share from **10.05** percent in 2020-21 to **6.79** per cent in 2025-26.

1.12 When the Committee desired to know whether any adjustments were made due to reduced allocation, the Ministry, in a written reply, apprised as under :

Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Army during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as follows:-

REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	1,65,228.28	1,45,785.88	1,53,436.68	1,44,545.67	1,39,903.33
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
2023-24	1,84,989.60	1,81,371.97	1,97,628.57	1,95,032.23	1,91,597.63
2024-25	2,14,577.03	1,91,319.60	2,01,289.26	1,98,427.82	1,49,300.75

CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	50,373.60	32,462.38	39,019.17	33,283.28	26,320.93
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
2023-24	37,341.54	37,341.54	33,412.16	33,412.16	28,613.50
2024-25	35,664.95	35,664.95	34,670.21	34,226.95	22,128.47

Note:

(i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.13 It may be seen from the data provided above that there has been increase in the allocations/expenditure in respect of Army under Revenue Head.

1.14. As regards Capital Head, it may be seen that allocation in BE 2024-25 has increased by 3,202.57 Crore over BE 2020-21 allocation. Further, it may be stated that in RE 2022-23, additional allocation of Rs. 483.23 Crore had been made over BE 2022-23 based on the projections made by Army and further Rs. 4,700 Crore had been allocated at MA stage as per requirement of Army which was utilized. There was less expenditure in FY 23-24 due to booking deducts on account of transfer of Defence land and non-fructification of planned Land Acquisition cases, slippages in delivery by the vendors, slow progress/ non-settlement of pending court cases, non-conclusion of Capital contracts and limited progress of works on ground. In BE 2024-25, lesser allocation was made to Army based on the overall ceilings received from MoF as per the past absorption capacity of the Army, pace of expenditure in the last Financial Year, overall resource envelope available etc.

1.15 It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it is ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Budget for Modernization

1.16 The Committee were apprised that in BE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 27,421.33 Crore was allocated to Army and the same was maintained at RE stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 18,669.69 Crore has been incurred by Army upto December, 2024. Further, surrender, if any, will be known at the time of

finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year 2024-25.

Further, in BE 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 26,100 Crore has been allocated to Army under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

Note:- RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval..

1.17 In addition, the Committee have been apprised as under:

“In FY 2020-21, Army had sought additional allocation of Rs. 7,300 Crore in first supplementary to cater for shortfall towards Committed Liabilities, emergency powers-2020 and requirement for construction of offices in connection with Central Vista Project. No additional funds were sought at second and final supplementary stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

2. Under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head, Army had sought no additional allocation at Supplementary stages in FY 2021-22.

3. Army had sought no additional allocation at any Supplementary Stage in FY 2022-23 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

4. Army had sought no additional allocations at any of the Supplementary stages in FY 2023-24 and in first Supplementary in FY 2024-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.”

1.18 Details of additional requirements projected by Army under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional funds projected at RE stage over BE allocations	RE Allocation
2020-21	26,068.61	31,961.00	5,892.39	26,068.61
2021-22	30,636.90	30,636.90	0.00	19,485.09
2022-23	25,908.85	27,051.00	1,142.15	27,051.00
2023-24	30,163.00	26,500.00	-3,663.00	26,500.00
2024-25	27,421.33	27,864.54	443.21	27,421.33

The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head.

1.19 Details of the requirements projected by Army under modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head at MA stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2020-21	26,068.61	22,452.75	-3,615.86	22,452.75
2021-22	19,485.09	20,304.93	819.84	20,304.93
2022-23	27,051.00	31,751.00	4,700.00	31,751.00
2023-24	26,500.00	23,900.00	-2,600.00	23,900.00
2024-25	27,421.33	NA		

It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and it is ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note:- RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.20 During oral evidence, with regard to modernisation of the Indian Army, a representative of Army apprised the Committee as under:

“The modernisation of the Indian Army is an ongoing process involving significant procurement efforts aimed at enhancing its overall combat effectiveness. The Indian Army is concentrating on improving fire power lethality, mobility and night fighting capabilities. Efforts are also being made to scale up the use of drones and counter-drone technologies in response to evolving threats. Initiatives such as ‘Eagle on the arm’ aimed at equipping every soldier with advance technology and the introduction of new, first-person view drone technology are key components of these modernisation efforts. Our aim in modernisation would be largely to

ensure operational employment of maximum equipment in super-high-altitude area. However, a sectoral model or a front model is also needed through spiral development mode for compatibility in plains and desert sectors. Establishment of secure and data-centric enabled communication network with adequate redundancy through satellite, aerial and ground-based communication nodes are an imperative.”

1.21 Further, with regard to enhancement of technology in Indian Army, a representative of the Army submitted as under: -

“The Indian Army is actively involved in various technology-related national missions from 6G initiatives to the latest National Quantum Mission. Most Indian Institutes of Technology and other research and development establishments will have dedicated Indian Army cells. To facilitate technology conversion, the Indian Army has identified 16 technology clusters each with specific responsibilities and outcomes. A high-power computing AI cloud is being developed soon for all the three Services with the Indian Army leading the initiative. The Indian Army AI Incubation Centre was opened in December 2024 in Bengaluru in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Ltd. The Indian Army is in the process of signing an MoU with IIT, Madras for innovations. It is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for exploiting block chain technology. Investments are also being done in deep technology projects. The Military College of Telecommunication Engineering at Mhow has become a strategic partner in Indian AI Mission, Chips to Startup Mission, and quantum key distribution projects. As for secure, space-based vehicle tracking and convoy management systems, we have commenced our efforts with navigation with the Indian constellation....”

Planning and Procurement

1.22 On Planning and Procurement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Defence Capital acquisition is carried out in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)/Defence Acquisition Procedure(DAP) and undertaken through Ten years Integrated Capability Development Plan(ICDP), Five Years Defence Capability Acquisition Plan (DCAP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP).The cases listed in the approved Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP) are progressed as per the DPP/DAP provisions and funds allocated and budgeted under the capital Acquisitions heads of Concerned Service for the given financial year.

Details of AoNs accorded for Army during last financial year 2023-24 and current financial year 2024-25 (upto Dec, 2024) are given below: -

2023-24		2024-25(upto Dec,2024)	
No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)	No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)
19	35,698.55	10	68,306.65

During last financial year 2023-24 and current financial year 2024-25 (upto Dec, 2024), 29 AoNs worth about ₹ 1,04,005.2 Cr. have been accorded which are under various stages of the Acquisition process for induction of the equipment in the services in subsequent years.”

1.23 As regards to initiation of measures for timely procurement, a representative of the Army during oral evidence submitted as under: -

“Regarding procurement and sustenance, in-house measures have been initiated to reduce procurement timelines. These include, strengthening the procurement organization, ensuring concurrent procurement activities, facilitating faster decision making, and establishing a robust monitoring mechanism. Plans are being executed to increase deputation exposures across various Departments including

NITI Aayog, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of External Affairs. This is intended to enhance lateral communication and learning, enabling faster decision making.

Sustenance is a crucial subset of capability development. There is an upward trend in more and more contracts executed by Indian vendors. Currently, 154 out of 175 categories of ammunitions have been indigenized and the Indian Army aims to achieve complete indigenization of its ammunition requirements by 2030. Furthermore, out of 107 AoNs, 106 AoNs, that is, 99 per cent, have been accorded to Indian vendors...

With the aim of steering projects from innovation to induction, Army Design Bureau has formulated a roadmap with defined timelines and proliferation through case studies for subsequent procurement of successful innovation, research and development projects. The acquisition of capability will ensure better battlefield awareness, quick decision making, maximum force application, and enhanced force protection.”

Indigenization

1.24 The Committee desired to know about the efforts made by the Army towards realization of indigenization and self-reliance. In this connection, it was informed that the Ministry of Defence as a whole is committed to AtmaNirbharta in Defence. With emphasis on self reliance & Make in India and to enable import substitution following initiatives are being undertaken: -

(i) Ministry of Defence is giving highest priority to procurement under Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)] category.

(ii) A new category of Buy (Global-Manufacture in India) has been introduced to strengthen ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government.

(iii) The Indigenous Content (IC) in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020 has been increased. Provision for minimum 50% IC in the form of indigenous material/ components/ software in the equipment being acquired has been introduced with an aim to boosting indigenous production and reduce import dependency.

(iv) Ministry of Defence periodically notifies 'Positive Indigenization Lists' to promote AtmaNirbharta. Five Positive Indigenization Lists comprising of 509 platforms/ equipment have been issued.

(v) Self-Reliance in Indian Defence eco system is being promoted with "No foreign sourcing". Foreign procurements are made only as exceptions with prior approval of Defence Acquisition Council(DAC).

(vi) Earmarking of 64.09% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement in 2021-22, which have been increased to 68% for FY 2022-23, 75% for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25."

1.25 The Committee were apprised that during the last five financial year (2019-20 to 2023-24) and current Financial year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), total 335 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Army, out of which 280 contracts worth about 89.10% of total contract value, have been signed with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment.

Details of capital expenditure incurred on Indigenous procurement for Defence Equipment by the Army for the last five financial year and current financial year are as under :-

(Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Indigenous Procurement
2019-20	19,619.62
2020-21	17,446.83
2021-22	17,290.96
2022-23	20,018.59
2023-24	21,607.65
2024-25 (Upto Dec, 2024)	20,961.29

1.26 The Ministry further informed that in BE 2025-26, the total Capital Acquisition Budget of MoD is ₹ 1,48,722.80 Cr and the capital Acquisition Budget of Army for FY 2025-26 is ₹ 26,100 Cr. 75% of total capital budget is earmarked for domestic capital procurement for FY 2024-25.

1.27 With regard to transformation of the Indian Army towards *Atmanirbharta*, a representative of the Army during oral evidence stated :-

“The mission statement for the Indian Army as spelt out by the Chief of Army Staff is to transform the Indian Army into an *atmanirbhar*, future-ready force that stands as a key pillar of the national security apparatus that contributes meaningfully to nation building, while its edifice remains anchored in efficient and holistic human resource management.

..... The Indian Army’s transformation is aligned with the year of reforms as spelt out by hon. Raksha Manti. The Indian Army has extended its ‘Year of Transformation’ initiatives in 2023 into a ‘Decade of Transformation’ from 2023 to 2032, which is aligned with the mission statement as enunciated earlier. The Indian Army’s comprehensive approach to these reforms is anchored across five key pillars: jointness and integration, force restructuring, modernisation and technology infusion, systems and process, and human resource management. These efforts are being driven by our commitment to self-reliance in line with the national policy of *Atmanirbharata*. Through strategic financial reforms, digital innovation and a push for domestic production, the Indian Army aims to strengthen its operation readiness while focussing on *atmanirbharata*.”

Force Level of Army

1.28 The Committee desired to know about the authorized as well as actual strength of equipments in the Army, the Ministry in their written reply intimated :-

“Equipment holdings (authorization and holdings of equipment etc) keep on changing based on obsolescence, de-induction and new inductions. Acquisition of equipment is an ongoing process. The deficiencies of equipment, wherever existing, are being made up through Capital and Revenue procurements. A focused approach has been adopted to make up the deficiencies. Weapons/equipment/ammunition items urgently to meet the operational requirements are being procured through the delegated financial and Emergency Procurement powers of the Indian Army.”.

1.29 As regards, restructuring of the force, a representative of Army during oral evidence apprised the Committee as under:-

“Force restructuring is an essential and ongoing initiative to effectively align organisational structures with emerging threats and technological advancements. The Indian Army has successfully implemented significant reorganisations within its Cyber, Electronic Warfare and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Units. Furthermore, the Indian Army will establish new combat units and headquarters that prioritise emerging technologies including manned and unmanned teams. We are also committed to meeting the evolving requirements of theaterisation and greater integration with the other two Services. Force structuring aims to keep pace with the requirements of contemporary and future battlefield. Rebalancing is now looking at review of structures and command and control, beside training orientation of the Indian Army schools of instruction. It will further look at implementation of new structures and capability building to conduct multi-domain operations that stands mandated due to emerging inter-dependencies.”

Jointness and Integration

1.30 As regards to jointness and integration among the three forces, a representative of the Army apprised the Committee as under:

“....The Indian Army is on path of jointness and integration in line with the vision of the Chief of Defence Staff. All the three Services are working towards one common goal. We are enhancing our integration through pursuits in common operational planning process, communications, technology development, exchange of subject matter experts and centres of excellence, common digitised maps and georeferencing systems, unmanned aerial vehicle assets, harmonising intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance resources, joint standard operating procedures, and integrated outsourcing. All acquisitions are also being progressed jointly wherein the Indian Army is the lead for 20 schemes out of 34 joint schemes.”

Manpower

1.31 With regard to the required and existing manpower in the Army, the Ministry through their written reply submitted as under:-

“Officers:

(i) Officers’ strength of Indian Army (excluding Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps & Military Nursing Service) as on 01 July, 2024 is as under:-

Authorized Strength	Held Strength	Deficiency	Remarks
50,538	42,095	8,443	16.71% deficiency

(ii) The vacancies for officers are planned to be filled in a time bound manner. Accordingly, vacancies are released every year as per exits & wastages. The following proposals have recently been implemented: -

- (a) Young Leaders Training Wing has been opened at Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai for training serving soldiers.
- (b) Technical Entry Scheme (10+2 TES) has been approved on 3+1 year model. This reduces training time of one year and ensures early availability of officers under this scheme.
- (c) Reform in the selection procedures have resulted in enhanced percentages of intake for pre-commissioning training.

Junior Commissioned Officers’/Other Ranks (JCOs/OR).

(a) The strength of JCOs/OR in Indian Army as on 01 October, 2024, is as under:-

- (i) **Authorized Strength** 11,97,520
- (ii) **Held Strength** 11,05,110
- (iii) **Deficiency** 92,410 (7.72%)

(b) The shortage of manpower in Army will be made up progressively under Agnipath Scheme to reach optimum strength.”.

Women empowerment

1.32 The Committee desired to know about the steps taken to ensure the induction of women into the Armed Forces, the Ministry in their written reply informed the Committee as under :-

“A number of steps have been taken to ensure induction of women in Indian Army. Details are as under:-

(i) **Sainik School/RMS/RIMC.** MoD has reserved 10% seats for girls in all Sainik Schools across India Wef Academic year 2021-22. The first batch comprising girls will pass out from Sainik School Chhingchhip, Mizoram in 2026. Girl students have also been allowed to take RIMC and RMS entrance exams wef Academic Session 2022-23 onwards.

(ii) **Women Officers.**

(a) **Opening of all Arms/Services less Combat Arms to Women Officers.** Women officers are being inducted into 13 Arms & Services including Artillery, Army Air Defence, Engineers, Signals, Intelligence Corps, Army Aviation, Army Service Corps, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Ordnance Corps, Judge Advocate General, Corps of Military Police, Medical Services and Remount and Veterinary Corps.

(b) **Increase in Women Officers Vacancies.** Vacancies have been increased from 80 per year to 144 per year in 2024-25.

(c) **Induction of Women Candidates at NDA.** 20 Vacancies per year have been allotted for induction of women cadets in NDA, Pune wef July, 2022.

(d) **Entry of Women Officers as Pilots in Army Aviation.** Earlier women officers were commissioned only into Air Traffic Control Branch of Army Aviation. However, wef year 2021, they are being commissioned in Army Aviation as pilots.

(e) **Increased Options for Induction.** Women are being inducted into Indian Army through NDA, SSC(NT), SSC(Tech), NCC and JAG entries. Induction of women through Departmental Entries in RVC and TA has also commenced. Vacancies for women officers are allotted as per requirements of the organization.

(f) **AMC & MNS.** Ample opportunities are being given to women medical officers in various appointments including leadership positions in AMC. Equal opportunities are available to all women medical officers for career progression. Presently, 11 women medical officers are held in AMC in executive ranks (Brigadier and above). Besides AMC, there are opportunities for women in MNS.

(iii) **Women JCOs/OR.**

(a) As per the Government sanction 1,700 women will be induced in a phased manner to foster equal opportunity to women to join Indian Army.

(b) Currently, the number of women as other Ranks in Indian Army are 210.

(c) Training of additional 100 Women Military Police for the year 2023-24 is in progress.”

Training in Indian Army

1.33 When the Committee enquired about the training institutes and curriculum of the training being imparted to officers/soldiers in Army, the Ministry through their written reply submitted as under:-

“Training in Indian Army. Training in Indian Army is a continuous process and is mainly divided in two parts, Institutionalised Training at various category ‘A’ and ‘B’ training establishments and secondly, Unit and Field Formation Training at their peace and field locations of deployment.

(i) **Training Directives.** Training is based on the Training Directives. These directives are applicable to entire Indian Army and are in consonance with National Security requirements and perspective covering the aspects of geo-strategic environment, security scenario, collusive threat and likely future battlefield milieu. The directives cover in details, the Key Result Areas, objective of training concept and conduct of training by the training institutions and field formation, aspects of professional enhancement and specific focus areas for the training.

(a) Institutionalised Training. There are Category ‘A’ and ‘B’ establishment for imparting training; details are as under:-

(aa) **Category ‘A’ Training Establishments.** There are designed with the aim of training the core group of trainers

at all levels and ranks, who in turn train the bulk of the Army in Units and Field Formations.

(ab) **Category 'B' Establishments**. These are primarily designed for conducting training of fresh recruits, inducted into the Army.

(b) **Unit/Field Formation Training**. Major portion of training is undertaken by the Units and Field Formations, as per the Training Directive applicable to them and specified 'Training Cycle'. The units are then inspected and tested for their operational role and declared 'Fit' only after having achieved specified levels.

(ii) **Training Establishments**. List of Category 'A' & Category 'B' training establishment for training of officers JCOs & ORs of Indian Army are attached as Appendix A&B to the note.

Updation for Training Content and Methodology. To align the training with the focus and concept as directed, the content and methodology is reviewed regularly and following aspects are covered in the review: -

(i) Latest operational concepts.

(ii) Environmental realities including emerging domains of warfare to include kinetic & non-kinetic warfare, cyber, drone, hybrid warfare etc.

The following topics form part of the training curriculum to align it with the modern battlefield requirements.

i Battle field transparency.

ii Electronic Warfare.

iii Advance Weapons Systems.

iv Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics.

v CBRN Defence.

vi Unmanned Systems.

vii Stealth.

In addition, the 'Exercise Setting' of various training exercises are based on changing threat perception duly incorporating the lessons from ongoing conflicts around the world as well as the evolving tactics of adversaries.

1.34 With regard to the upgradation of human resources in Army, its representative during oral evidence apprised the Committee as under:-

“The Indian Army is looking to upgrade its human resources including the tactical commanders to techno commanders. Regarding the Indian Army’s intake for MTech programmes, it has increased by 30 per cent. We are increasingly focussed on digitised, networked and automated in-house solutions to address the Indian Army’s functional, operational and human resource requirements.”

Further, a representative of Army on the same issue, submitted as under:-

“.....Upgrading the skills and capabilities of a personnel, along with ensuring the welfare of the rank and file, veterans, widows, and dependents, is a priority. Agniveer is the most transformative reform of the Government and the Indian Army is progressing on the path to make it successful. Currently, 1,23,000 Agniveers are enrolled in the Agnipath Scheme.

Concerted efforts have led to an increase in the Officer intake in the Indian Army. Adequate impetus is also being laid towards the intake of women Officers in the Indian Army.

Regarding veterans, Project Naman has received a positive response and the Indian Army plans to open 200 centres in collaboration with online service centres, public sector undertakings, and private banks.”

Efforts being made towards nation building

1.35 With regard to the efforts being made towards nation building by the Army, a representative of Army informed as under:-

“Now, I come to nation building. The Indian Army is focusing on Border Area Development through four lines of effort -- infrastructure, communications, tourism, and education. In this regard, Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan serves as a one-stop solution for information and clearance for visits to forward area battlefields. Additionally, the Indian Army has signed an MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to enhance the skills of its personnels by integrating dual-purpose infrastructure.

The Indian Army also contributes to nation building by training and channelizing the youth enrolled in the National Cadet Corps. Over 17

lakh National Cade Corp cadets including six lakh girl cadets are trained every year by over 12,000 Indian Army personnel employed as instructional staff.

The Indian Army is working in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs focusing towards Vibrant Village and Border Area Development Programmes.”

1.36 During oral evidence, the Committee desires to know the status of Vibrant Village and Border Area Development Programmes to which CDS apprised the Committee as under:-

“In the vibrant village programme, Indian armed forces, unless it is a disputed area and may lead to a problem, otherwise there is no problem in the locals accessing as far as possible.”

1.37 With regard to military diplomacy, a representative of the Army submitted as under:

“As part of our defence diplomacy based on our contributions and commitment to the United Nations Charter, a Rapid Deployment Force of the Indian Army will be ready for mission deployment in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations by March, 2025. Currently, over 5,200 troops are deployed in nine United Nations Missions across the globe.”

Role of Army during disaster and natural calamities

1.38 With regard to providing relief measures during natural disaster and calamities, a representative of Army submitted as under:

“....The Indian Army is often the first responder in times of natural disaster and calamities by virtue of its inherent organizational structure and deployment pan-India. Providing humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities remains a priority for the Indian Army for which the Army trains and liaises with the civil administration and other stakeholders on a periodic basis. Reflecting on the lessons learnt from 2024, the Indian Army has also allocated budget to upgrade chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear Quick Reaction Teams and Quick Reaction Medical Teams. We have established 17 Equipment Bricks dedicated to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Missions, ensuring timely and effective responses during crisis.”

CHAPTER II

AIR FORCE

The Committee are not oblivious of the fact the Air Force leverages the airpower of the Armed Forces. For effective command and control, the IAF has various commands, under which there are different stations and units located at various places throughout the country. Humanitarian assistance during disaster relief is another vital and momentous role of the Indian Air Force. The budgetary demands for the Air Force are contained in Demand Nos.19 and 20.

2.2 The Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure for the Air Force during the last five years including 2024-25, separately for the Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2025-26. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	43,904.17	29,962.66	44,605.21	31,742.07	32,825.23
2021-22	44,992.90	30,652.53	48,816.59	34,283.02	34,375.46
2022-23	50,692.44	32,873.46	54,997.72	44,728.10	45,667.16
2023-24	68,081.58	44,345.58	56,565.41	56,272.10	53,024.92
2024-25	60,847.17	46,223.49	55,332.23	50,376.77	34,903.02
2025-26	66,530.27	53,700.00	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	66,207.29	43,281.91	72,955.18	55,083.91	58,207.95
2021-22	77,140.56	53,214.77	71,176.39	53,214.77	53,217.19
2022-23	85,322.60	56,851.55	56,264.54	53,871.17	44,917.78
2023-24	58,808.48	58,268.71	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
2024-25	59,062.07	59,062.07	59,062.07	47,766.14	29,291.40
2025-26	64,811.68	64,811.68	-	-	-

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc., which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of Air Force. In Budget Estimates (BE) for Financial Year 2025-26, against Revenue Head, projection of Air Force has been Rs. 66,530.27 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 53,700.00 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for Financial Year 2024-25, under Revenue head, Air Force's projection was Rs. 55,332.23 crore and allocation made was Rs. 50,376.77 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 4955.46 crore. However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 34,903.02 crore during FY 2024-25.

Capital Budget

Capital Budget chiefly provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in Budget Estimate for Financial Year 2025-26, Air Force's projection was Rs. 64,811.68 crore and the same was allotted to it. In RE, 2024-25 the projection of Air Force was Rs. 59,062.07 and allocation made was Rs. 47,766.14 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 11282.07 crore. However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 29,291.40 crore in Financial Year 2024-25.

2.3 During the deliberations on Demands for Grants 2025-26, a representative of the Indian Air Force while deposing before the Committee stated:

“.....Over the last five years, there has been an adequate allocation of funds both for capability enhancement and sustenance. The Capital Budget in the last five years has grown at an average grown rate of 8 per cent whereas the revenue budget has grown at a rate of 11 per cent. IAF's budget today is at 24 per cent of the total Defence capital budget.

As we can see, other than the salaries, most of the expenditure is towards operational requirements. भारतीय वायु सेना ने भविष्य के लिए शॉर्ट, मीडियम और लॉंग टर्म प्लान्स तैयार किए हैं। एलॉटेड बजट से अगले दो सालों में भारतीय वायु सेना काफी नए जहाज और सिस्टम्स इंडक्ट करेगी, so that the existing gaps will be covered.

Percentage Share of Air Force Budget

2.4 The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Air Force budget (both Revenue and Capital) out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	DSE	Air Force (Revenue)	%age share	Air Force (Capital)	%age share	Air Force (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2020-21	3,23,053.00	29,962.66	9.27	43,281.91	13.40	73,244.57	22.67
2021-22	3,47,088.28	30,652.53	8.83	53,214.77	15.33	83,867.30	24.16
2022-23	3,85,370.15	32,873.46	8.53	56,851.55	14.75	89,725.01	23.28
2023-24	4,32,720.14	44,345.58	10.25	58,268.71	13.47	102,614.29	23.71
2024-25	454,772.67	46,223.49	10.16	59,062.07	12.99	105,285.56	23.15
2025-26	4,91,732.30	53,700.00	10.92	64,811.68	13.18	1,18,511.68	24.10

2.5 Further, details of expenditure incurred by Air Force under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years(including FY 2024-25) are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	DSE#	Air Force (Revenue)	%age share	Air Force (Capital)	%age share	Air Force (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2020-21	3,40,093.51	32,825.23	9.65	58,207.95	17.12	91,033.18	26.77
2021-22	3,66,545.91	34,375.46	9.38	53,217.19	14.52	87,592.65	23.90
2022-23	3,99,123.44	45,667.16	11.44	44,917.78	11.25	90,584.94	22.70
2023-24	4,44,699.20	53,024.92	11.92	60,757.63	13.66	1,13,782.54	25.59
2024-25	3,03,446.29	34,903.02	11.50	29,291.40	9.65	64,194.42	21.16

Note:-

(i) #DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC & DGQA Budget.

(ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(iii) BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

2.6 It can be seen from above that there is an increase in percentage share of Revenue Budget of Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates from 9.27 per cent in 2020-21 to 10.92 per cent in 2025-26. At the same

time, there is a decrease in capital budget share from 13.40 percent in 2020-21 to 13.18 percent in 2025-26. However, the overall percentage has been increased from 22.67 per cent to 24.10 per cent during the same time period.

2.7 The Committee desired to know as to whether any adjustments were made due to the reduced allocation, if any, in Revenue and Capital Budget during the last five years, the data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:-

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	43,904.17	29,962.66	44,605.21	31,742.07	32,825.23
2021-22	44,992.90	30,652.53	48,816.59	34,283.02	34,375.46
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2023-24	68,081.58	44,345.58	56,565.41	56,272.10	53,024.91
2024-25	60,847.17	46,223.49	55,332.23	50,376.77	34,903.02

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	66,207.29	43,281.91	72,955.18	55,083.91	58,207.95
2021-22	77,140.56	53,214.77	71,176.39	53,214.77	53,217.19
2022-23	85,322.60	56,851.55	56,264.54	53,871.17	44,917.78
2023-24	58,808.48	58,268.71	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
2024-25	59,062.07	59,062.07	59,062.07	47,766.14	29,291.40

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

2.8 It may be seen from the above table that there has been no reduction in allocation at RE stage under both Revenue and Capital Heads. Allocations under Capital Head at BE stage are either increased or maintained at RE stage except in FY 2024-25. The allocations made at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, Committed liabilities of Air Force and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head. Also, the allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Budget for Modernization

2.9 The Ministry have informed the Committee, that in FY 2024-25, an allocation of Rs. 54,569.91 Crore is made to Air Force under Capital Acquisition(Modernisation) Head against which expenditure of Rs. 26,973.72 Crore has been incurred till December, 2024. Further, surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year 2024-25.

2.10 In BE 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 59,646.83 Crore has been allocated to Air Force under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

Note:- RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

2.11 Air Force had sought no additional allocations at any of the Supplementary stages in FY 2023-24 and in first Supplementary in FY 2024-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

2.12 Details of additional requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection at RE over BE	RE Allocation
2023-24	54,024.37	54,395.19	370.82	54,626.99
2024-25	54,569.91	54,945.44	375.53	43,736.15

2.13 Details of requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as under: -

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2023-24	54,626.99	59,271.16	4,644.17	59,271.16
2024-25	43,736.15	NA		

2.14 The Committee have been apprised that the allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and it was ensured that urgent and

critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note:- RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

2.15 During oral evidence, on the topic of modernization, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee as under:

“Parallely, with the objective of maintaining the qualitative status with respect to our adversaries, IAF has, over the years, upgraded its legacy fleets and brought them to a near 4-gen capability. However, because of their vintage, some sustenance issues do exist.”

Planning and Procurement

2.16 As regards details of acquisitions planned for the years 2025-26 and 2026-27, the Ministry through written reply furnished the following details of major schemes planned for acquisition in FY 2025-26. The Ministry further stated that the Schemes for 2026-27 have been proposed and the exact schedule will be determined based on the progress of the schemes.

ACQUISITION PLANNED IN FY 2025-26

The following major acquisitions/upgradations in different platforms have been planned. These are likely to be completed by March, 2026.

SI No.	Scheme Name
1.	Low Level Radars
2.	Electronic warfare Suite for helicopters
3.	Light Combat Aircraft
4.	Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Multi-role Helicopter
5.	GSAT
6.	CHAFF & flares

7.	Jammers
8.	Wet Lease of Flight Refuelling Aircraft
9.	Inflatable Decoy
10.	Indigenous upgrade of SU-30 aircraft
11.	Wind Profiler
12.	SIGINT & COMJAM Aircraft
13.	Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems
14.	Mountain Radars
15.	Navigation Radars
16.	Bird Detection and Monitoring Radar

2.17 On being asked about the details of the acquisitions made by Air Force from indigenous sources, the Ministry in its written reply furnished the following details of the schemes procured from indigenous sources during the last five years including FY 2024-25 (upto Dec. 24):-

“The acquisitions/ upgradations in different platforms such as Approach Radars, Missile Systems, Aircrafts, Full Mission Simulators, Trainer Aircraft, Technology Missiles, Counter Drone systems, Close-in-Weapon System, High Power Radars, Aero engines, Avionics upgrades, Static Trans receivers etc. were done at a cost of Rs.1,39,596.60 crore.

The details of IAF expenditure on Domestic procurement since last five years are as follows:-

FY	Domestic Exp (Rs. Cr.)
2019-20	16,461.54
2020-21	36,638.14
2021-22	29,911.37
2022-23	28,539.13
2023-24	29,441.12
2024-25	23,349.85” (upto 31 st Dec, 2024)

2.18 The Committee further enquired about the funds dedicated for acquisition from indigenous sources during FY 2025-26, the Ministry through written reply submitted that domestic and foreign expenditure ceiling for FY 2025-26 is yet to be received.

Indigenization

The Committee are delighted to know that IAF has renewed its focus on attaining self-reliance in defence manufacturing and helping the industry in building indigenous systems. As part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IAF is pursuing indigenous production of fighters, transport, helicopters and trainer aircraft along with air to air weapons, air to ground weapons, surface to air guided weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles and radars. IAF is also in the continuous process of indigenization of foreign sourced equipment / aircraft components.

2.19 During the oral evidence, a representative of the Air Force on the topic of indigenous upgradation of aircrafts, apprised the Committee as under:

“In the last one year, there were a few scrambles against various violations. The entire monitoring, command and control of the air situation are achieved through an **indigenous system**, the Integrated Air Command and Control System, which is a seamless network of all ground and airborne sensors in the country. The IACCS, as it is referred to, is unique in its design and provides the required redundancy and flexibility in the command and control of our airspace.

.... Coming to combat capabilities, the fighter aircraft remains the main instrument of prosecuting the air war and conversely for air defence too. आज की तारीख में सू-30 भारतीय वायु सेना का सबसे बड़ा बेड़ा है। यह काफी सक्षम जहाज है और चूंकि यह आने वाले समय में हमारा बेन स्टे जहाज रहेगा, इसकी केपेबिलिटी एक **इंडिजिनस अपग्रेड प्रोग्राम** के तहत बढ़ाई जाएगी। इसे भारतीय वायु सेना की देख-रेख में एचएएल, डीआरडीओ एवं प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्री के द्वारा एग्जिक्यूट किया जाएगा। इसकी सारी प्लानिंग हो चुकी है। यह अप्रूवल प्रोसेस के आखिरी चरण पर है। सू-30 के अलावा रफाल और एलसीए मार्क-1ए दोनों कंटेम्परी 4 टू 4.5 जनरेशन के लड़ाकू विमान हैं। रफाल की हमारे पास दो स्कॉर्डन हैं। एलसीए मार्क-1 की डिलीवरी शुरू होने वाली है। Even though LCA's

development was quite delayed, the Mk 1A is a good example of the whole of nation approach, where an IAF, DRDO and HAL have been able to build a contemporary all-weather light combat aircraft designed on a modular concept. भारतीय वायु सेना को पूरा विश्वास है कि आपरेशनल होने के बाद यह बहुत सक्षम विमान होगा।”

2.20 The representative of Air Force further submitted the following-

“.....Our present inventory of airborne early warning aircraft largely consists of the limited number of legacy AWACS and three indigenously developed Netra aircraft.

..... However, we have already initiated a proposal to procure six more aircraft. The good part here is that thanks to the sustained commitment of IAF and DRDO, the nation today is capable of developing the mission systems for such specialised platforms, making it one of the few such countries in the world to be able to do so. Capitalising on this achievement, the IAF has already initiated two programmes of six AEW aircraft each and one for a special role aircraft. All these projects will have indigenous mission systems. When it comes to airlift capability, our capability is much better.

The majority of our strategic and tactical airlift platforms are contemporary and capable of meeting the operational requirements of both inter and intra-theatre mover forces. IL-76 Dornier and An-32 are our legacy fleets. इसमें डोनिअर को हम अपग्रेड कर रहे हैं और बाकियों को रिप्लेस करने के लिए प्रोसेस शुरू हो गया है, as part of the medium transport aircraft project.

In the heli-lift category, we have a diverse inventory of combat as well as lift capability. मी-17 चेतक और चीता हमारी लिगेसी फ्लीट है। Eventually, the Mi-17s will be replaced through another programme called the Indigenous Multi-Role Helicopter. This is currently in the design stage.

Similarly, the Indigenous Light Utility Helicopter will replace the ageing Chetak, Cheetah and Cheetal helicopters.

At the same time, we are also looking at life extension of certain aircraft and helicopters with the expertise of our base-repair depots and agencies like National Aerospace Laboratories. In the

contemporary battlefield, the surface-to-air guided weapons play a very important role in this. इस क्षेत्र में भारतीय वायु सेना की इंडक्शन और अपग्रेडेशन योजना को योजनाबद्ध तरीके से कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है। अपग्रेडेशन और स्वदेशीकरण की योजना की वज़ह से इसकी कैपेबिलिटीज़ में, नम्बर और टेक्नोलॉजी, दोनों में, स्टडी इम्प्रूवमेंट हो रही है। Here also, as the legacy systems get phased out, the majority of the surface-to-air weapon systems will be of indigenous origin. For the very first time, the Indian private sector will also be involved in their production.”

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The Committee take note of the fact that the IAF actively supports the national vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and has been making efforts to reach out to the industries, MSMEs, start ups and academia. It has been an endeavour of the IAF to avail various schemes launched by Gol and provide impetus to the process of self reliance in Defence Manufacturing . IAF as always have progressed further on its path of indigenization . In order to fully exploit the capacity and capability of the Indian industry, IAF has fielded certain challenging cases under the Make procedure and these, in the coming times, would ensure continuance of induction of new technologies developed through indigenous resources.

2.21 During oral evidence on the issue of Aatmanirbharta, the representative of Air Force submitted as under:

“When it comes to *aatmnirbharta*, dates back to 1958, in Kanpur, the Air Force station was conceived and built. This was followed by the production of Avro. Thereafter, from Marut to Tejas to Prachand, भारतीय वायु सेना आत्मनिर्भरता के प्रति पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है। इसके अलावा, एव्रो मॉडल, जिसमें भारत में ही C2-95 बन रहा है, इस प्रोजेक्ट से देश में एयरोस्पेस सेक्टर को मेजर बूस्ट मिलेगा और 15,000 हाई स्किलड जॉब्स और 10,000 जॉब्स अगले साल बनेंगे।

We are also engaging with the private sector. Along with DIO, we are doing various competitions like Mehar Baba, Drone Shakti, to incentivise home grown talent. In the recently concluded Aero India, an IAF problem-statement was released for use for the private sector. इस साल के एक्सपेंडिचर को देखें तो डोमेस्टिक में यह 86 प्रतिशत होगा और फॉरेन पर 14 प्रतिशत होगा, which is well within the Government target. इसी तरह से, हम डिजिटल डोमेन में भी काफी काम कर रहे हैं। ...all that I have covered so far would not have been possible without required budgetary support by the Government.”

Training

2.22 With regard to the number of authorized trainer aircraft/simulators and their existing strength, the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:

“Trainer Aircraft held by IAF currently include Basic Trainer Aircraft, Intermediate Jet Trainer and Advanced Jet Trainer.... All modern aircraft are complemented by simulators. There are a total of 14 Simulators for training aircraft.”

2.23 On this issue, the Ministry representative further submitted the following: -

“Presently, IAF is deficient of Trainer Aircraft. The following measures have been taken to mitigate the deficiencies : -

- (a) Contract for 70 HTT – 40 indigenous trainer aircraft has been signed with HAL and delivery is scheduled to start in September, 2025.
- (b) 36 additional HTT – 40 will be procured after operationalization of these ac in IAF.
- (c) Additionally, in the interim period, IAF is exploring the option of leasing Basic Trainer Aircraft.”

2.24 During oral evidence, on the issue of training and skill development, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under: -

“IAF being a technologically sensitive service, training and skill development of air warriors are integral to its human resource development. Towards this, there is a structured program of professional military education in service courses and skill-based categorization. IAF also exploits its professional reputation towards soft diplomacy by training personnel from friendly foreign countries.

Flying training, which is the core requirement of the Air Force, follows a well-structured three-stage model. इस साल से हिन्दुस्तान टर्बोप्रॉप ट्रेनर (एचटीटी-40), जो कि एक इंजेजिनसली डेवलप्ड एयरक्राफ्ट है, इंडक्ट होना शुरू हो जाएगा। उसके बाद ट्रेनिंग-टू-एयरक्राफ्ट 3-स्टेज पैटर्न में स्टैबिलाइज्ड हो जाएगी। ट्रेनिंग को और मजबूत करने के लिए हम कुछ एचटीटी-40 और खरीदेंगे। इसके साथ ही साथ, लीज़ ऑपशंस भी अपनाएंगे। A lot of effort has been placed on the use of simulators for training and the hon. Members would be happy to note that most of the simulators that we are now inducting are through indigenous sources. Apart from its Air Force and Command level exercises, IAF regularly conducts joint training with friendly nations and sister services.

In the past, IAF has conducted a number of trans-oceanic bilateral and multilateral exercises, both within and outside the country. The recently concluded Tarang Shakti was the country's first and largest-ever multinational air exercise in the modern era, with nearly 30 nations participating. Such exercises not only contribute to air diplomacy, they also enhance deterrence by influencing adversaries.”

2.25 The Ministry through written reply apprised the Committee regarding details of the training institutes for pilots in the Air Force as under:

Sl. No	Flying Training Establishment	Place
(a)	Air Force Academy	Dundigal
(b)	Fighter Training Wing	Hakimpet
(c)	Helicopter Training School	Hakimpet
(d)	Operational Conversion Unit A	Kalaikunda
(e)	Operational Conversion Unit B	Kalaikunda
(f)	Hawk Operational Training Squadron A	Bidar
(g)	Hawk Operational Training Squadron B	Bidar
(h)	Fixed Wing Training Flight	Yelahanka
(i)	112 Helicopter Unit	Yelahanka
(j)	Flying Instructor School	Tambaram

(k)	Basic Flying Training School	Prayagraj
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2.26 The Ministry apprised the Committee regarding life span of existing trainer aircraft in tabular form as under:

<u>Sl No.</u>	<u>Trainer Aircraft</u>	<u>Details of Life Span</u>
(i)	Hawk	Life of Hawk aircraft is 30 Years/ 100 Fatigue Index (FI)/ 6000 flying hours.
(ii)	Kiran Mk I/IA	Total Technical Life is 8500 Air frame hours.
(iii)	Kiran Mk II	Total Technical Life is 7500 Air frame hours.
(iv)	PC 7 Mk II	Total Technical Life is 10000 Air frame hours/ 30000 Landings

2.27 The Committee enquired about the policy of the Government with regard to phasing out planes and helicopters, a Ministry in its written reply submitted as under: -

“In line with ‘Atamnirbhar Bharat’ policy of GoI, IAF is pursuing life extension of these fleet for maximum exploitation with indigenous efforts in collaboration with reputed research establishment (like NAL, DMRL) and academia (like IITs).”

Night Landing Facility

2.28 On being asked about the reasons for unavailability of night landing facilities at all the Air bases, the Ministry through their written reply submitted as under:

(i) Night landing facilities exists at all operational IAF bases for military aircraft flying.

(ii) A new IAF airfield is under construction at Deesa. As part of MAFI project only TACAN has been installed at the base. Further, all the operational infrastructure including Nav aids would be installed in a phased manner. At present the night landing facility is not available.

Note: The night landing facilities at any airfield depends on operational requirement, feasibility of conducting safe and regular night operations from that base. Hence, while night landing facilities exists at all IAF bases for military aircraft flying, civil aviation, which entails more stringent requirements may not be possible from those bases where the requirements are not met.

2.29 The Committee desired to know the budgetary allocation and actual expenditure incurred for modernization of airfields, the Ministry through a written reply intimated:-

“The details of the budgetary allocation are as follow:-

(i) Under Phase- I **Rs 1215.35 Cr** was allotted. MAFI Phase-I project has been completed in December 2019 with modernisation of 30 airfields and all payments effected.

(ii) Under Phase- II, a total budget of **Rs. 1187.17 Cr** has been allotted, in which IAF share of budget (including Aviation Research Centre (ARC) bases) is **867 Cr** and the same has been incurred by the IAF, alongwith applicable taxes and duties.”

2.30 Further, on future plans for the modernization of airfields, the Ministry through its written reply apprised the Committee as under:-

“The modernization of airfields under Project MAFI, will provide modern aids which will meet the near future requirement of the IAF.”.

2.31 With regard to number of airfields presently in use alongwith their modernization status, the Ministry through written reply apprised the Committee as under:-

“There are 52 modernised airfields presently in use, out of which 6 modernised airfields are in North-Eastern part of India. This apart, one new airport is under construction.”

2.32 During oral evidence, on the usage of Air Force airfields, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

“In terms of operational infrastructure, भारतीय वायु सेना के एयरफील्ड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के आधुनिकीकरण यानी कि बाकी प्रोग्राम्स के अधीन सारे 52 एयरफील्ड्स को मॉडर्न एयरफील्ड सिस्टम से इक्विपड कराए जा रहे हैं। इनमें से 6 एयरफील्ड्स उत्तर-पूर्व में हैं। आज की तारीख में हमारे सारे ऑपरेशनल एयरफील्ड्स ‘नाइट ऑपरेशन’ के लिए सक्षम हैं। A total of 39 of these airfields are also operating as joint user airfields. क्रिटिकल एसेट्स की सुरक्षा के लिए फॉर्बर्ड एयरफील्ड्स में नेक्स्ट जेनरेशन हार्डेन्ड एयरक्राफ्ट शेल्टर्स का प्रोजेक्ट इम्प्लीमेंट किया जा रहा है।

....The meteoric rise in the civil aviation sector has positioned India as the third-largest domestic aviation market. Growth of civil aviation is being ensured through the flexible use of airspace. The joint usage of the Air Force airfields, along with some of the advanced landing grounds, helps in enhancing regional connectivity as part of the Government's UDAN scheme. All this, in turn, leads to significant financial and carbon emission savings.”.

Manpower

2.33 With regard to the required and the existing manpower (Officers and PBOR) in Air Force and initiatives taken during Thirteenth and Fourteenth Defence Plans, the Ministry apprised that Committee as under:

“Officers

(i) As on 01 Oct 24, data in respect of officers (except Med/ Dental branch) was 11,916 against an establishment of 12,929 leading to a deficiency of 1,013.

(ii) The induction plans have been revamped so as to gradually bring the strength at par with the sanctioned establishment. IAF selection process comprises of AFCAT, AFSB evaluation, Computerised Pilot Selection System (when applicable) and stringent medical criteria. While adequate candidates register for joining IAF in the officer cadre, total number of candidates who eventually get commissioned varies. Concerted efforts are in place to address the shortfall at the earliest.

(iii) Efforts are in place to increase the induction of officers which includes establishing a dedicated department named 'DISHA' cell at Air HQ, to ensure wide publicity of Indian Air Force. With 'DISHA by Indian Air Force' as the tag line, a focused Digital Publicity campaign is being undertaken on all social media platforms. The IAF has also come up with a new concept of installing Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion (FCPs) at prominent locations across the country. FCP is a technologically advanced platform to provide information about the IAF and its career opportunities in a trendy, logical and appealing manner. In addition, Air Force participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Publicity stalls at various forums including youth festivals, career conclaves, youth related exhibitions etc. that are set up from time to time for benefit of the target youth. Two customised buses with information displayed about IAF and consisting of a flying simulator in each bus, visit various educational institutes across the country to motivate students. These initiatives have borne fruit and there has been a steady increase in number of youth getting commissioned.

Airmen

(iv) As on 01 Oct 24 strength of airmen including Agniveervayu in IAF was 1,39,876 against an establishment of 1,46,030 leading to a deficiency of 6,154. Additionally, 2,317 trainees including 1,982 Agniveervayu are undergoing training at various training institutes. Recruitment in IAF is an ongoing process based on the scheduled and unscheduled discharges."

2.34 On a query regarding steps taken to bridge the capability gaps, a representative of Air Force submitted as under:

“I conclude the review by assuring the hon. Members that the IAF is fully committed to meeting its asking where applicable, the capability gaps are being addressed through flexible operational planning and engagement with the Ministry of Defence.”

Women empowerment

2.35 During the deliberations on the topic of women empowerment, a representative of Air Force submitted as under:

“IAF strongly believes in women empowerment. The women are serving in all branches and roles including in combat. Women officers are also commanding combat units. IAF today has the maximum number of women officers at 14 per cent of its officers’ strength. With the induction of Agniveervayu Women, the strength of women is on an increasing trend. During the inaugural fly past at the recently concluded Aero India, Shakti formation of three aircrafts had women pilots in command of all aircraft. In December last year, the first female officer from the non-medical branch was promoted to the Air Rank and coincidentally her name is Shakti Sharma.”

Preparedness against Syring

2.36 On the issue fo the incidences of spying in Air Force, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Four cases have surfaced in the last five years. All the involved personnel have been dismissed from IAF. Amongst them, one of the case has been handed over to civil police – he is undergoing trial in a civil court..

2.37 The Committee desired to know the measures taken to check spying in Air Force, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

(i) The espionage cases occurred due to over-indulgence on social media platform by the individuals which led to their targeting by the Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs).

(ii) A policy on 'Cyber Security and Usage of Social Media' was formulated and disseminated to the environment. The policy severely restricts the use of smartphones in work places as well as on usage of social media.

(iii) Regular checks are being conducted to ensure compliance of the policy.

(iv) Awareness campaign/ lectures on Cyber Security are being conducted on modus operandi of PIOs to sensitise the personnel.

(iv) Appropriate guidelines and advisories are being issued for awareness of the personnel.

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

2.38 During oral evidence, with regard to human assistance and disaster relief operations, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

“Element of national power, IAF regularly utilises its raw material and human resources in nation building and soft power projection. चाहे वह फलड रिलीफ हो, चाहे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट हो, या ग्लोबल इवैक्यूएशंस हों,”

CHAPTER III

NAVY

The Committee are happy to learn that Indian Navy stands committed to nation's safety, security and prosperity by ensuring safe and secure seas anytime, anywhere and anyhow. The Indian Navy has been playing a maritime leadership role in the Indian Ocean Region due to its multi-dimensional capabilities and active presence in the region. The environment in India's maritime neighbourhood is dynamic, with increasing instabilities, deepening geopolitical and ethnic faultiness, growing military capabilities and wide range of security challenges. These pose a combination of conventional and sub-conventional threats emanating from the seas. These challenges require the Indian Navy to remain effective across the entire competition –conflict continuum, while constantly reshaping itself to meet future challenges. Providing humanitarian assistance during disasters is another vital role played by Indian Navy.

3.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Navy for the year 2025-26, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure for Navy during the last five years including 2024-25, separately for Capital and Revenue segments alongwith projection and allocation in the BE 2025-26. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE (NET)

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	32,237.96	22,934.75	28,379.84	23,347.69	23,166.05
2021-22	34,256.83	23,360.68	30,069.08	23,925.91	23,834.99
2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53
2024-25	40,649.26	32,778.73	36,666.42	35,687.31	22,422.16
2025-26	40,707.22	38,149.80	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	45,268.31	26,688.28	51,769.28	37,542.88	41,666.76
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48

2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62
2024-25	62,545.98	62,545.98	62,953.79	62,192.98	26,969.29
2025-26	65,352.82	65,352.82	-	-	-

Note:- (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of Navy. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2025-26, against Revenue Head, projection of Navy was Rs. 40,707.22 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 38,149.80 crore, with a reduction of Rs. 2557.42 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2024-25, under Revenue head, Navy's projection was Rs. 36,666.42 crore and allocation made was Rs. 35,687.31 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 979.11 crore, However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2024-25 was Rs. 22,422.16 crore.

Capital Budget

The Capital budget cardinally provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2025-26, Navy's projection was Rs. 65,352.82 crore and the same has been allocated. In RE 2024-25, the projection of Navy was Rs. 62,953.79 crore and allocation made was Rs. 62,192.98 crore. However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2024-25 was Rs. 26,969.29 crore.

3.3 During examination of Demand for Grants 2025-26, a representative of Indian Navy, through a Power Point presentation before the Committee on budget submitted the following information:

“अब मैं नौसेना की सस्टिनेंस एंड प्लान ग्रोथ के प्रति बजटरी कंसीडरेशंस आपके समक्ष प्रस्तुत करूंगा। वर्ष 2021 से नौसेना के बजट में लगातार वृद्धि देखी गई है। अब बजट घोषणा के अनुसार वर्ष 2025-26 में इंडियन नेवी का बजट 97,149 करोड़ रुपये रहेगा। इस स्लाइड पर ऑरेंज में एक्सपेंडिचर दिखाया गया है। यह साल दर साल एलोकेशन से ज्यादा रहा है, जो हमारा एक्चुअल एक्सपेंडिचर है, इसे हर साल रिवाइज्ड एस्टिमेंट के द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जाता है। कैपिटल बजट के

एलोकेशन में लगातार बढ़ोतरी देखी जा रही है। यह हमारे कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट की ओर प्रीडोमिनेंट फोकस को दर्शाता है। हमारा डोमेस्टिक टू फॉरेन कैपिटल एक्सपेंडिचर रेशियो भी वर्ष 2020 से प्रोग्रेसिवली इम्प्रूव हुआ है। रेशियो बाई वैल्यू एंड बाई नंबर ऑफ कॉन्ट्रैक्ट्स यहां दिखाए गए हैं। डोमेस्टिक एक्सपेंडिचर में बढ़ोतरी सरकार के इंडिजेनाइजेशन से एलान्ड है।”

3.4 Further, during the examination of Demand for Grants 2025-26, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under—

“सर, कंसीस्टेंट बजटरी सपोर्ट, नौसेना की सस्टेनेंस और प्लान ग्रोथ के लिए अनिवार्य है। हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि भारत की नौसेना आने वाले वर्षों और भी सशक्त एवं सक्षम होगी।”

Percentage share of Navy Budget

3.5. The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Navy budget in both Revenue and Capital segments out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years and share of allocation of Capital and Revenue outlay for the FY 2025-26. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

Year	DSE	Navy (Revenue)	%age share	Navy (Capital)	%age share	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
2020-21	3,23,053.00	22,934.75	7.10	26,688.28	8.26	49,623.03	15.36
2021-22	3,47,088.28	23,360.68	6.73	33,253.55	9.58	56,614.23	16.31
2022-23	3,85,370.15	25,406.42	6.59	47,590.99	12.35	72,997.41	18.94
2023-24	4,32,720.14	32,284.20	7.46	52,804.75	12.20	85,088.95	19.66
2024-25	454,772.67	32,778.73	7.21	62,545.98	13.75	95,324.71	20.96
2025-26	4,91,732.30	38,194.80	7.77	65,352.82	13.29	103,547.62	21.06

3.6 The Ministry have further informed the details of expenditure incurred by Navy(including Jt. Staff) under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years(including FY 2024-25) are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	DSE	Navy (Revenue)	%age share	Navy (Capital)	%age share	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share
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2020-21	3,40,093.51	23,166.05	6.81	41,666.76	12.25	64,832.81	19.06
2021-22	3,66,545.91	23,834.99	6.50	45,028.64	12.28	68,863.63	18.79
2022-23	3,99,123.44	30,042.41	7.53	46,091.48	11.55	76,133.89	19.08
2023-24	4,44,699.20	34,261.53	7.70	50,762.62	11.42	85,024.15	19.12
2024-25	3,03,446.29	22,422.16	7.39	26,969.29	8.89	49,391.45	16.28

Note:-

(i) DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, NCC, & DGQA Budget.

(ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(iii) BE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.7 It can be seen that there is an increase in percentage share of revenue budget of Navy, out of Defence Services Estimates from 7.10 per cent in 2020-21 to 7.77 per cent in 2025-26. At the same time, there is a increase in capital budget share from 8.26 percent in 2020-21 to 13.29 percent in 2025-26. There is an increase in absolute terms under both revenue and capital heads during the same time period.

3.8 On the issue of adjustments due to reduced allocation in Revenue and Capital Budget, the Committee were apprised through a written submission as under:-

“Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Navy (including Joint Staff) during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as follows :-

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	32,237.96	22,934.75	28,379.84	23,347.69	23,166.05
2021-22	34,256.83	23,360.68	30,069.08	23,925.91	23,834.99
2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53
2024-25	40,649.26	32,778.73	36,666.42	35,687.31	22,422.16

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	45,268.31	26,688.28	51,769.28	37,542.88	41,666.76
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48
2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62
2024-25	62,545.98	62,545.98	62,953.79	62,192.98	26,969.29

Note:- (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2024-25 are upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.9 It may be seen from the data provided above that there has been consistent increase in the allocations/expenditure in respect of Navy under both Revenue and Capital Heads from FY 2020-21 onwards. It may be added that the allocated funds are optimally utilized towards operational activities and it can be observed that in most of the years the actual expenditure was lesser than the allocation at RE stage."

Budget for Modernization

3.10 The Committee were apprised that in BE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 58,700 Crore was allocated at BE stage to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. In RE 2024-25, an additional allocation of Rs. 1,058.87 Crore was made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) over BE 24-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 25,629.11 Crore was incurred upto December, 2024. Surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year 2024-25.

3.11 In BE 2025-26, an allocation of Rs. 62,975.97 Crore has been made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

Note:- RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval

(i) **Supplementary FY 2023-24:** Navy had sought no additional allocations at any of the Supplementary stages in FY 2023-24 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

(ii) **Supplementary FY 2024-25:** Navy had sought no additional allocations in first Supplementary in FY 2024-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. However, in FY 2024-25, Jt. Staff has sought additional allocation of Rs. 1,058.87 Crore at First Supplementary Stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head and the same has been allocated to them.

(iii) Details of additional requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as under: -

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection made in RE over BE	RE Allocation
2023-24	48,113.90	48,541.06	427.16	48,401.27
2024-25	58,700.00	60,519.68	1,819.68	59,758.87

Note: RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

(v) Details of requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2023-24 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2023-24	48,401.27	48,636.87	235.60	48,636.87
2024-25	59,758.87	NA		

Note: RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

(vi) The Ministry further stated that the allocated funds were optimally utilized and it was ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note:- RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.12 During oral evidence on Demand for Grants 2025-26, a representative of Indian Navy, through a Power Point presentation before the Committee on modernization submitted the following information:

“सर, इस ग्राफ में ब्लू लाइन नौसेना की आधुनिकीकरण हेतु अगले दस सालों के लिए एक्सपेंडिचर का अनुमान दिखाती है। जो येलो लाइन है, वह बजट उपलब्धता का एस्टिमेट है। भविष्य में देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि को नजर में रखते हुए 10 परसेंट बजट ग्रोथ का आंकलन किया गया है, जैसा यहां दिख रहा है, यह अनुमानित राशि हमारे आधुनिकीकरण प्लान के लिए पर्याप्त साबित होगी। नेवी की डे-टू-डे रनिंग और मेंटेनेंस पर होने वाला खर्च का भुगतान रेवेन्यू बजट से किया जाता है। वर्ष 2025-26 में रेवेन्यू बजट का आंकड़ा 34,149 करोड़ रुपये घोषित किया गया है। यह अनुमानित एक्सपेंडिचर के अनुकूल है। नौसेना ने हेल्दी कैपिटल टू रेवेन्यू रेशियो अचीव किया है और इसे निरंतर इम्प्रूव किया जा रहा है। यह हमारी कैपेबिलिटी ड्रिवन एप्रोच का रिजल्ट है।”

3.13 When the Committee desired to know about the acquisition plans for the years 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively, to which the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

“The contract for the schemes likely to be signed during FY 2025 -26 and FY 2026-27 are as follows:

(Rs in Crs)

Sl.No.	Scheme	Anticipated Cost
1.	Warships and Survey Vessels	42018.90
2.	Submarines and Refits of Submarines	45498.00
3.	Aircrafts and their maintenance	26363.37
4	Weapons and Ammunitions	4525.90
5.	Equipments and vehicles	3460.57

Indigenisation

3.14 On being enquired about the details of the acquisitions made by the Navy from indigenous sources during the last five years and the status of

the outlay spent on indigenous acquisition, the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

During the last five years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25*(upto 31 Dec 24) capital acquisition contracts worth Rs. 1,01,645.02 for the Indian Navy were signed with the Indian vendors. Value of the Acquisition made by the Navy from Indigenous sources during the last five years are as tabulated below:-

Years	Contract Value (In Crs)
2020-21	4845.09
2021-22	4527.91
2022-23	32860.75
2023-24	51202.58
2024-25*	8208.69

The details of **Financial outgo** on **Indigenous acquisitions** is as tabulated below:-

<u>FY</u>	<u>Financial Outgo (Rs in Crs)</u>
2020-21	23,047.51
2021-22	27,823.41
2022-23	30,261.09
2023-24	40,497.17
2024-25*	21,394.92
Total	1,43,024.10

3.15 As desired by the Committee regarding the funds dedicated for acquisition from indigenous sources during FY 2025-26, the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

“Though Ministry of Defence allocates % /share towards acquisition from Indigenous and Foreign Sources every year, however for FY 25-26, this allocation would be promulgated by Mar 25.”

3.16 During oral evidence, on the topic of indigenization a representative of Indian Navy through a power point presentation, submitted as under:

“The number of ships and submarines is projected to grow as indicated on the screen. अगले कुछ वर्षों में शिप्स और सबमैरिन्स

की संख्या 234 तक बढ़ाने का प्लान है। इस समय कुल 61 शिप्स अंडर कंस्ट्रक्शन हैं, जिन्हें वर्ष 2030 तक नेवी में इंडक्ट किया जाएगा। इसमें से 60 शिप्स हमारे भारतीय शिपयार्ड्स में बन रहे हैं। अंडर कंस्ट्रक्शन प्रोजेक्ट्स के अलावा नेवी को इन इंडक्शन्स के लिए जैसा कि स्लाइड में दिखाया गया है, गवर्नमेंट की एक्सेप्टेंस ऑफ नेसेसिटी दी जा चुकी है। इनका कंस्ट्रक्शन अगले एक से दो साल में शुरू हो जाएगा।”

Planning and Procurement

3.17 Ministry was asked to provide the details of the various vessels presently under construction at various shipyards including their original targets, revised targets and also cost incurred till date, in this regard, the Ministry in its written replies submitted as under:

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks
1	Diving Support Vessel (DSV), (ex-HSL)	02	Sep 21	Ship 1- end Jan 25/ Feb 25	₹ 1542.82	
			Mar 22	Ship 2- end May 25/ Jun 25		
2	Additional P-1135.6 Follow-On Ships, ex-Russia	02	May 23	Ship 1- Delivered in Dec 24	₹ 6519.68	
			Nov 23	Ship 2- Mar 25		
3	Additional P-1135.6 Follow-On Ships, (ex-GSL)	02	Oct 26	Ship 1- Oct 26	₹ 6827.29	
			Apr 27	Ship 2- Apr 27		
4	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), (ex-GRSE)	08	Oct 22	Ship 1- Jan 25	₹ 3452.34	
			Oct 23	Ship 2 - Mar 25		
			Oct 23	Ship 3 - Apr 25		
			Oct 24	Ship 4 - Oct 25		
			Oct 24	Ship 5 - Oct 25		
			Oct 25	Ship 6 - Feb 26		
			Oct 25	Ship 7 - Feb 26		
5	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), (ex-CSL)	08	Oct 26	Ship 8 - Oct 26	₹ 2980.34	
			Oct 22	Ship 1 - Apr 25		
			Oct 23	Ship 2 - Apr 26		
			Oct 23	Ship 3 - Apr 26		
			Oct 24	Ship 4 - Apr 27		
			Oct 24	Ship 5 - Apr 27		
			Oct 25	Ship 6 - Apr 28		
			Oct 25	Ship 7 - Apr 28		

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks	
			Oct 26	Ship 8 - Apr 29			
6	Diving Support Craft (DSC), (ex-TRSL)	05	Jan 23	Ship 1 - Jun 25	₹ 66.73		
			Apr 23	Ship 2 - Sep 25			
			Jul 23	Ship 3 - Dec 25			
			Oct 23	Ship 4 - Mar 26			
			Jan 24	Ship 5 - Jun 26			
7	Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), (ex-L&T)	02	May 25	Same as Original	₹ 405.48		
		Feb 26					
8	Cadet Training Ship (CTS), (ex-L&T)	03	Sep 26		₹ 783.70		
			Mar 27				
			Sep 27				
9	Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), (ex-GSL)	07	Sep 26		₹ 1364.83		
			Mar 27				
			Sep 27				
			Mar 28				
			Sep 28				
			Mar 29				
			Sep 29				
10	Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), (ex-GRSE)	04	Nov 26		Same as Original	₹ 973.33	
			May 27				
			Nov 27				
			May 28				
11	Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV), (ex-CSL)	06	Mar 27	₹ 2882.70			
			Mar 28				
			Mar 29				
			Mar 30				
			Mar 31				
			Mar 32				
12	Fleet Support Ship (FSS), (ex-HSL)	05	Aug 27	₹ 4865.25			
			Jun 28				
			Apr 29				
			Feb 30				
			Dec 30				
13	Project-15B (Destroyers), (ex- MDL)	04	Ship 4- Feb 25	Delivered on 20 Dec 24	₹ 4240.13		
14	Project 17A (Frigates) (ex-MDL & GRSE)	7	Ship 1 - Nov 24	Delivered on 20 Dec 24	₹ 19633.53 (MDL)		
			Ship 2 - Feb 25	Same as Original			
			Ship 3 - Aug 25				
			Ship 4 - Feb 26				

Sl. No.	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels	Original Targets	Revised Targets	Cost Incurred till Date (in Cr)	Remarks
			Ship 5 - Feb 25	Same as Original	₹ 13338.27 (GRSE)	
			Ship 6 - Apr 26			
			Ship 7 - Aug 26			
15	Survey Vessel Large (SVL), (ex-GRSE)	04	Ship 3 - Oct 22	Mar 25	₹ 664.72	28 months
			Ship 4 - Apr 23	May 25		25 months
16	Project-75 Submarines (ex-MDL)	06	SM # 6 – Dec 17	5 Submarine Delivered SM # 6 – Jan 25	₹ 3900.00	

SM – Submarine

MDL – Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

GRSE – Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited

GSL – Goa Shipyard Limited

HSL – Hindustan Shipyard Limited

L&T – Larsen & Toubro Limited

TRSL – Titagarh Rail Systems Limited

CSL- Cochin Shipyard Limited

MANPOWER

3.18 On the issue of human resource in the Indian Navy, a representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

“सर, भारतीय नौसेना में करीब 10 हजार ऑफिसर्स, 59 हजार सेलर्स, 11,600 अग्निवीर और 32,170 डिफेंस सिविलियन्स कार्यरत हैं। सारे पर्सनेल अपने काम के लिए ट्रेंड हैं और नेवी की कॉम्बैट और ऑपरेशन प्रीपेयरडेंस मेंटेन करने में पूर्णतः सक्षम हैं।

सर, जैसा आप देख सकते हैं कि नेवी का मैनपावर काफी लिमिटेड है। परंतु कम संख्या में होने के बावजूद हम पूरे विश्व में कहीं भी राष्ट्रीय दायित्वों का निर्वहन करने में पूरी तरह निपुण हैं। नारी शक्ति को बढ़ावा देने के क्रम में इंडियन नेवी ने कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं। As on date, we have 642 women officers and 1718 women Agniveers.”

Operational Preparedness and Threat Perception

3.19 During the oral evidence, on the issue of operational preparedness as well as the threat perception a representative of Indian Navy through power point presentation, submitted as under:

“सर, इंडियन ओशन के इकॉनॉमिक और स्ट्रैटिजिक सिगनीफिकेंस को ध्यान में रखते हुए विश्व की कई लीडिंग मिलिट्री पावर्स यहां पर कंटीन्युएस प्रजेंस मेंटेन करती हैं। हर महीने हम एक्सट्रा रीजनल नेवीज़ के करीब-करीब 50 से 60 वॉरशिप्स इंडियन ओशन रीजन में मॉनिटर करते हैं। पश्चिम और उत्तर की सीमाओं पर प्रतिकूल भौगोलिक और राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के परिणामस्वरूप हमारी संप्रभुता और संपन्नता ओशंस और सीज़ से काफी क्लोज़ली लिंकड रही है।

.....दिखाए गए आंकड़ों से यह ज़ाहिर होता है कि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी मेरिटाइम एनवायमेंट पर हेविली डिपेंडेंट है। भारत की नेशनल इंटरैस्ट की सेफ्टी सिक्योरिटी के लिए यह जरूरी है कि मेरिटाइम स्पेसेज में शांति और सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जाए और देश ने यह अहम जिम्मेवारी भारतीय नौसेना को सौंपी है। हमारी मेरिटाइम स्पेसेज की शांति और सुरक्षा को प्रिडॉमिनेंटली दो तरह के थ्रेट्स हैं। थ्रेट्स फ्रॉम ट्रेडिशनल सोर्सज़, जिमसें पोटेंशल एडवर्सरीज़, जैसे कि चाइना और पाकिस्तान शामिल हैं और नॉन ट्रेडिशनल सोर्सज़, जैसे कि पायरेसी और ड्रोन अटैक, मिसाइल अटैक्स, ह्यूमन और ड्रग ट्रेफिकिंग, इल्लिगल फिशिंग आदि। भारतीय नौसेना के ऑपरेशंस इन थ्रेट और चैलेंजेस को मिटिगेट करने के लिए किए जाते हैं।

.....पिछले साल हमारे युद्धपोतों ने कुल 13,612 दिनों के बराबर समय समुद्र में बिताया है। समरींस टोटल 1,598 दिनों के बराबर डिप्लॉयड रही हैं। नौसेना के एयरक्राफ्ट्स ने समुद्री क्षेत्रों में करीब 50 हजार घंटों से

ज्यादा उड़ान भरी है। समुद्री क्षेत्रों में बिताया गया यह समय मेरिटाइम एक्टिविटीज़ के निरंतर संचालन में साधक रहा है।

वर्ष 2019 में लॉन्च किए गए ऑपरेशन संकल्प के तहत हमारे युद्धपोत पर्शन गल्फ और गल्फ ऑफ ओमान के द्वारा ऑपरेट होने वाले व्यापार और एनर्जी शिपमेंट्स की सेफ्टी और सिक्योरिटी में तैनात हैं। वर्ष 2024 में यमन के हूती समूह द्वारा शिपिंग अटैक्स ने वेस्टर्न इंडियन ओशन में मेरिटाइम सिचुएशन को और गंभीर बना दिया और परिणाम स्वरूप ऑप संकल्प का दायरा और बढ़ा दिया गया है। भारत से हो रहे एक्सपोर्ट-इंपोर्ट में लगे शिप्स की रक्षा के लिए नेवी ने अभी तक 30 नेवल शिप्स डिप्लॉय किए हैं। करीब 24 इंसिडेंट्स में डायरेक्ट इंटरवेंशन किया गया है। करीब चार सौ जानें बचाई गई हैं। स्टैटिस्टिक्स कहता है कि हमने करीब 280 मर्चेट शिप्स को सेफली एसकाई किया है, जिन पर करीब 4.8 बिलियन यूएस डॉलर्स का सामान लदा हुआ था।“

3.20 With regard to anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations, it was further submitted by representative of Navy as under:

“सर, मर्चेट शिपिंग और सीफेयर्स को सी बेस्ड पायरेसी से काफी गंभीर खतरा है। हमारे व्यापार के साथ-साथ इंडियन सीफेयर्स जो काफी बड़ी संख्या में शिपिंग इंडस्ट्री में काम करते हैं, उनको पायरेसी से सुरक्षित रखने की जिम्मेदारी इंडियन नेवी की है। इंडियन नेवी वर्ष 2008 से एंटी पायरेसी ऑपरेशंस के तहत गल्फ ऑफ एडेन और एडजॉइनिंग एरियाज़ में कंटीन्यूसली तैनात है। पिछले वर्ष 2024 में नेवी ने छह सक्सेसफुल एंटी पायरेसी ऑपरेशन किए और करीब 120 लोगों को बचाया। सर, ऐसी ही एक घटना में, जब आइएनएस कोलकाता एक हाइजैकड शिप को सहायता प्रदान कर रही थी, नेवी कमांडोज़ को भारत के तट से करीब 1500 मील दूर इंडियन एयरफोर्स के सी-17 विमान से डायरेक्ट ऑपरेशंस के बीच में एयरड्रॉप किया गया था। This

was a maiden such operation ever conducted at sea, and aptly demonstrated our joint capabilities.

वर्ष 2022 से हमने गल्फ ऑफ गिनी, जो अफ्रीका के वेस्ट कोस्ट पर स्थिति है और जहां से हम काफी मात्रा में ऑयल इंपोर्ट करते हैं, वहां पर भी रेग्युलर इंटरवल्स पर शिप्स डिप्लॉय किए हैं।

Sir, the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022 has been a key enabler in our endeavours to deter the threat of piracy at sea.....”

Capability and Infrastructure Development

3.21 With respect to the capability and infrastructure development, it was submitted by representative of Navy as under:

“सर, अगली कुछ स्लाइड्स में इंडियन नेवी के कैपेबिलिटी और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर्सपेक्टिव प्लान के बारे में बात करेंगे। आज इंडियन नेवी में 114 शिप्स, 20 सबमैरिन्स एंड 247 एयरक्राफ्ट्स हैं। यह एक संतुलित और बहुआयामी फोर्स है। वर्ष 2024 में कई प्लेटफार्म्स इंडक्ट किये गए हैं, जिसमें वारशिप्स, सबमैरिन्स और एमएच60आर हेलीकॉप्टर्स शामिल हैं। नौसेना की बढ़ती जिम्मेदारियों के लिए फोर्स लेवल में बढ़ोतरी अनिवार्य है।”

3.22 On the status of the operational bases of Navy, it was submitted by Representative as under:

“सर, एसेट्स की इफेक्टिव डिप्लॉयमेंट और मेंटेनेंस के लिए ऑपरेशन और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर जरूरी है, जिसमें नौसेना के बेसेस और एयर स्टेशंस शामिल हैं। इस स्लाइड पर लाल रंग में प्रेजेंट बेसेस एंड एयर स्टेशंस दिखाए गए हैं। जो बढ़ोतरी प्लान है, उसे पीले रंग में दिखाया गया है।”

Joint operations and exercise

3.23 With respect to joint operations, it was submitted by representative of Navy through power point presentation, as under:

“वर्ष 2024 में कंडक्ट किए गए ऑपरेशंस स्क्रीन पर दिखाए गए हैं, जो कि हमारे एक्सटेंडेड रीच और प्रेज़ेंस और मित्र देशों के साथ एक्सटेंसिव कोलॉबोरेशन को दर्शाता है। अपने प्रोएक्टिव और इफेक्टिव एप्रोच से हमारा हमेशा यह प्रयत्न रहा है कि भारत और भारतीय नौसेना दूसरे देशों के लिए प्रेफर्ड सिक्योरिटी पार्टनर के रूप में स्वीकृत हो। हिंद महासागर की विशालता और एडजॉइनिंग ओशंस की सामरिक महत्व के संदर्भ में यह ऑपरेशनल गतिविधियां जरूरी हैं और हमारे प्रेफर्ड सिक्योरिटी पार्टनर होने का सुदृढ़ प्रमाण देती हैं।”

“....वर्ष 2009 में सीसीएस के आदेशानुसार इंडियन नेवी को ओवरऑल मैरिटाइम सिक्योरिटी इन्क्लूडिंग कोस्टल सिक्योरिटी एंड ऑफशोर सिक्योरिटी का दायित्व दिया गया था। देश के कोस्टल सिक्योरिटी कंस्ट्रक्ट में करीब 40 करोड़ मैटेनेंस एजेंसी शामिल है। यह जरूरी है कि इन सब के बीच प्रॉपर सिनर्जी और समन्वय हो।

Towards this, Indian Navy conducts Exercise ‘Sea Vigil’, जिसमें सारे कोस्टल स्टेट्स, यूनियन टेरिटरीज और रिलिवेंट गवर्नमेंट डिपार्टमेंट पार्ट लेते हैं। इनके माध्यम से देश के कोस्टल डिफेंस प्रिपेयर्डनेस की समीक्षा की जाती है। पिछले साल यह एक्सरसाइज नवंबर के महीने में की गई थी। ज्वाइंटनेस एवं इंटीग्रेशन ऑफ आर्म्ड फोर्सेस के लार्जर विजन के अनुरूप इंडियन नेवी, इंडियन आर्मी और इंडियन एयर फोर्स के साथ कई ज्वाइंट एक्सरसाइज और मिशन पार्टिसिपेट करती है। इसके कुछ उदाहरण यहां दिखाए गए हैं।

भारतीय नौसेना विभिन्न ज्वाइंटनेस और इंटीग्रेशन पहलों में पूर्ण तत्परता से भाग ले रही है, जिससे रिसोर्स ऑप्टिमाइजेशन में मदद मिली है। यहां कुछ उदाहरण दिखाए गए हैं।”

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

3.24 During oral evidence, on human assistance and disaster relief operations, a representative of the Navy submitted as under:-

“किसी भी प्राकृतिक विपदा या सर्च एण्ड रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन की जरूरत पड़ने पर सेनाएं हमेशा आगे रही हैं। इंडियन नेवी ने पिछले साल देश के अंदर कई जगहों पर एचएडीआर और एसएआर ऑपरेशंस किए हैं। ऐसे ही कई ऑपरेशंस देश के बाहर भी किए गए हैं। हमारे फॉरवर्ड डिप्लॉयड वॉरशिप्स किसी भी सिचुएशन को सिफ्टली कंट्रोल करने में सक्षम रहे हैं और यह हमारी फर्स्ट रिस्पॉन्डर की छवि को मज़बूत करता है।”

CHAPTER IV

JOINT STAFF

The Committee have been given to understand that the Joint Staff act as a single point organization for joint manship in the Ministry of Defence which integrates policy, doctrine, war-fighting and procurement. The role and responsibilities of the organization has witnessed expansion ever since its inception in the year 2001.

4.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Joint Staff for the year 2025-26, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and actual expenditure for Joint Staff during the last five years including 2024-25, along with projection and allocation in the BE 2025-26. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	5,893.10	4,461.44	4,894.61	4,012.58	3,565.12
2021-22	6,251.11	4,543.04	4,684.83	4,146.26	3,715.26
2022-23	5,473.28	4,462.35	6,014.25	5,498.39	4,011.90
2023-24	6,543.78	6,060.45	5,349.33	5,094.38	4,274.76
2024-25	5,312.40	5,075.76	6,351.22	6,307.76	3,169.34
2025-26	6,888.23	6,352.82	-	-	-

Note:- (i) Expenditure in respect of FY 2024-25 is upto December, 2024.

(ii) RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 are subject to Parliament's approval.

4.3 During examination of Demands for Grants 2024-25, a representative of Joint Staff through a Power Point Presentation before the Committee submitted the following information:

“एचक्यूआईडीएस सशस्त्र सेनाओं की जॉइंटनेस और इंटीग्रेशन को बढ़ाने के लिए उत्तरदायी है, ताकि युद्ध के मैदान में और राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा से जुड़े सभी क्षेत्रों में सभी चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक सामना करने में तीनों सेनाओं के रिसोर्सेज का ऑप्टिमम उपयोग सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। एचक्यूआईडीएस संयुक्त स्टाफ संगठनों के तहत 120 से अधिक यूनिट्स के सभी फाइनेंशियल पहलुओं और कैपिसिटी बिल्डिंग का प्रबंधन करते हुए उन्हें सहयोग देता है। एचक्यूआईडीएस पोटेंशियल एडवर्सिरीज के संभावित खतरों का नेट असेसमेंट भी करता है।

डिफेंस क्राइसिस मैनेजमेंट ग्रुप के अध्यक्ष के रूप में चीफ ऑफ इंटीग्रेटेड डिफेंस स्टाफ संकट की स्थिति के दौरान सशस्त्र बलों की प्रतिक्रियाओं में समन्वय करते हैं। जैसा कि हाल ही में मानवीय सहायता आपदा राहत आपरेशन के तहत सहायता वाले क्षेत्रों में, जैसे कि भारत में साइक्लोन फेंगल, असम कोल माइन्स और विदेशों में आपदा प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में किया गया है। एचक्यूआईडीएस स्ट्रेटिजिक इंटेलिजेंस को कोआर्डिनेट और एनालिसिस भी करता है और सशस्त्र बलों के स्वदेशीकरण आस्पेक्ट सहित एकीकृत क्षमता विकास योजनाओं को तैयार कर उनका संचालन भी करता है।“

“.....एचक्यूआईडीएस, एनडीए, स्टाफ कॉलेज ऑफ डिफेंस मैनेजमेंट जैसे प्रमुख प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों का भी प्रबंधन करता है, जो न केवल भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों के अधिकारियों को बल्कि मित्रों विदेशी अधिकारियों को भी प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करते हैं। हमें सीबीआरएन, म्यूजिक एंड केटरिंग के लिए नये ट्राईस इंस्टीट्यूट का भी गठन किया है। लॉ एंड इंटेलिजेंस जैसे दो अन्य संस्थान शामिल होने वाले हैं।“

“सेक्रेटरी डीएमए की अध्यक्षता में हमने रक्षा स्वदेशीकरण समिति का गठन किया है और कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट सस्टनेंस के लिए आईडीएस सर्विस हेडक्वार्टर में स्टेकहोल्डर्स के बीच इंटरफेस को सक्षम किया है। युद्ध के इवोल्विंग नेचर की क्षमताओं की प्राप्ति के लिए एचक्यूआईडीएस सर्विसेज के एक्विजिशन प्लॉन का समन्वय करता है। इसे बजट के साथ जोड़ता है, रिक्वायरमेंट को ऑप्टिमाइज करता है और आवश्यक अनुमोदन प्राप्त करता है। इस प्रक्रिया में एचक्यूआईडीएस समानता और इंटर-ऑपरेबिलिटी सेवाओं द्वारा खरीदे जा रहे उपकरणों के पैमाने की जांच करता है। सीसीएस के मेनडेट के साथ मेल बिठाते हुए एचक्यूआईडीएस एक ज्वाइंट कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट प्रोसेस भी तैयार करता है, जिसे इंटीग्रेटेड कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट सिस्टम नाम जाना जाता है। We also hold proactive interaction with the industry, MSME, academia, startups. हमने हाल ही में सीएसआईआर के साथ एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी के साथ”

4.4 The Committee took note of the details of additional requirements projected under Revenue and Capital Heads in respect of Joint Staff at RE 24-25 stage which is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	Revenue	Capital	Total
BE Allocation	3,722.78	1,352.98	5,075.76

RE Projection	3,886.24	2,464.98	6,351.22
Additional amount sought in RE	163.46	1,112.00	1,275.46
RE Allocation	3,842.78	2,464.98	6,307.76
MA Allocation	NA		

Note:- RE 2024-25 is subject to Parliament's approval.

- (i) The Committee found that in FY 2024-25, Jt. Staff has sought additional allocation of Rs. 1,112.00 Crore at First Supplementary Stage under Capital Head and the same has been allocated to them.
- (ii) The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available. It may be added that the allocated funds are optimally utilized towards operational activities and it will be ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Role of Joint Staff

4.5 The Committee desired to know about the existing structure and role of Joint Staff and operational mechanism between DMA and Joint-Staff, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Department of Military Affairs in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been created on 01.01.2020. It is the nodal agency for all military matters within the MoD to promote integration & synergy among the Services through joint planning and organizational synchronization for optimal utilization of military capabilities. Creation of DMA has fructified the envisaged direct and participative involvement of the Services in the formulation of national security policies. DMA deals with functional issues of the Services as well as Integrated Defence Staff.

‘Joint Staff’ and ‘Integrated Defence Staff’ are two broad means of creating jointness amongst the Services at the HQ level. In ‘Joint Staff’, each Service provides inputs for Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Training, Procurement, etc., which are collated and thereafter fused at the apex level. In an ‘Integrated Staff’, the staff from the three Services is mixed in every constituent vertical function

of Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Training, Procurement, etc., thereby lending greater inter-service collaboration from the ground up.

(i) Existing Structure of HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS). HQ IDS was established during the year 2001. The broad contours of the organisation are as given below:-

(a) HQ IDS is headed by the Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) who enjoys a status equivalent to a Commander-in-Chief of a Service.

(b) HQ IDS consists of five major branches, i.e. Policy Planning & Force Development (PP&FD), Doctrine Organisation & Training Branch, Operations Branch, Intelligence Branch and Medical Branch.

(c) The branches are headed by Deputy Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS) who are of the rank of Lt Gen equivalent.

(d) Branches are further divided into Divisions and Directorates on functional basis. The Divisions are headed by Assistant Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff (ACIDS) who are of Maj Gen equivalence while directorates are headed by Deputy Assistant Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff (DACIDS) who are Brigadier equivalent officers.

(ii) **Role and Function of HQ IDS.** The main role and function of HQ IDS is as given under:-

(a) Formulating policy and programmes on joint employment, joint training and military education for personnel of the defence forces in consultation for approval by Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

(b) Facilitate efficient functioning of multi Service bodies.

(c) Coordination of Long Range Plans, Five Year Plans and Annual Budgetary proposals for the three Services and presentation of proposals.

(d) Provide a secretariat and render general assistance to the Chairman COSC and COSC.

(e) Coordination of all aspects of Defence Intelligence and keeping COSC informed.

- (f) Coordinating Defence Services Doctrine and response to non-conventional and unconventional threats to national security on behalf of COSC.
- (g) Facilitate constitution of Defence Crisis Management Group (DCMG) as on required basis.”

4.6 During oral evidence on Demand for Grants 2025-26, the representative of the Joint Staff on the roadmap for ‘Vision- 2047’, submitted the following information:

“.....एचक्यूआईडीएस के स्टेटेड रोल और फंक्शन्स के अंतर्गत विकसित भारत 2047 के साथ तालमेल बैठते हुए विजन, 2047 -- to be an integrated, all domain force, dynamic and self-reliant in capabilities and thought, ready to respond across the full spectrum of conflict to protect our national interests, in concert with all elements of national power को तैयार किया गया है।“

Further, the representative through power point presentation regarding various phases of ‘Vision- 2047’ submitted as under:-

PHASE-I (2027) : ‘ERA OF TRANSITION’
PHASE-II (2027-2037) : ‘ERA OF CONSOLIDATION’
PHASE-III (2037-2047): ‘ERA OF EXCELLENCE’

4.7 With regard to the increasing trend of Joint Staff Organisations, a representative of the Ministry submitted as under:

“.....वर्ष 2001 में संयुक्त स्टाफ के केवल दो यूनिट अर्थात मुख्यालय आईडीएस और एएनसी को सपोर्ट किया गया था। गत वर्षों के दौरान इस सूची में इजाफा हुआ है और अब यह लगातार बढ़ते हुए वर्तमान में 13 जेएसओज को कवर करती है। इसमें अंडमान और निकोबार जैसे ऑपरेशनल कमांड, सिंगल इंटेलीजेंस यूनिट, प्रमुख प्रशिक्षण प्रतिष्ठान जैसे राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी, रक्षा सेवा स्टाफ कॉलेज, रक्षा प्रबंधन कॉलेज आदि शामिल हैं।

भारत के राजपत्र अधिसूचना में इंटरसर्विसेज आर्गनाइजेशन कमांड कंट्रोल एंड डिसिप्लिन एक्ट, 2023 की अधिसूचना ने जॉइंटनेस और इंटीग्रेशन के लक्ष्य को मजबूती दी है।“

Operationalization of theatre command

4.8 On being asked about the role of Joint Staff in operationalisation of the theater command, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

“In pursuance of the Government’s directive, the Indian Armed Forces are moving towards creating and operationalizing ‘Theatre Commands’. This integrated structural framework shall ensure unity of resources, planning process and execution of the operations in a given theatre, and in so doing, create seamless synergy between the constituent Services. The Theatre Commands will have integral resources from all the Services to discharge their operational mandate. Accordingly, the staff required to tenet the billets in the Theatre Commands shall be drawn from all the three Services, to perform the staff functions associated with the ‘Integrated Processes’ in the fields of operations, intelligence gathering, planning, logistics, administration, HR management, etc.,”

4.9 During oral evidence, about the jointness and integration of Armed Forces, a representative of Joint Staff stated as under:

“रक्षा मंत्रालय ने वर्ष 2025 को ईयर ऑफ रिफॉर्म्स घोषित किया है। यह वर्ष हमारे लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह रक्षा तैयारियों में अभूतपूर्व प्रगति की नींव रखेगा। इस वर्ष हम कई रिफॉर्म्स पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए कमिटेड हैं, जो जॉइंटनेस और इंटीग्रेशन के हमारे प्रयास को और मजबूत करेंगे। अपने ऑपरेशनल डोमेन में हम जल्द ही जल्द फ्यूचर ऑपरेशन्स एनालिसिस ग्रुप स्थापित करने जा रहे हैं, जो हमारे इंटीग्रेटेड ऑपरेशन्स की अधिक प्रभावशाली और निर्बाध योजना को इश्वोर करेंगे।“

.....एक डिटेल्ड रोड मैप विकसित किया गया है। यह तीनों सर्विसेज के डिजायर्ड इंटीग्रेशन को मजबूती प्रदान करेगा, which are otherwise unique in their own way of functioning and operations. इसके लिए स्टडीज द्वारा डाक्ट्रिंस तैयार किए जा रहे हैं। To enhance future warfare in multi-domains, that is air, land, maritime and new domains of cyber, space, etc. usage of niche technology such as AI, ML, quantum computing, high-networking तकनीकों को सर्वोत्तम स्तर पर एक्सप्लॉयट किया जा रहा है। मार्च, 2024 में हमारी फोर्सिज ने जॉइंटनेस की भावना को तब प्रदर्शित किया, जब उन्होंने वायुसेना के सी-17 विमान से इंडियन नेवी के मारकोस को एयर ड्रॉप किया, एक जॉइंट आपरेशन और मोटर वेजल रुएन को सोमालिया सी के समुद्री लुटेरों से बचाया।

हाल ही में इजराइललेबनान कन्फ्लिक्ट के दौरान एचक्यूआईडीएस ने विदेश - मंत्रालय, रक्षा मंत्रालय तथा अन्य स्टेकहोल्डर्स के साथ संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशन पर तैनात पसर्नेल की निकासी के लिए शानदार योजना कोऑर्डिनेट की। हालांकि बाद में इस पर होल्ड लगा दी गई।

महोदय, तीन लॉजिस्टिक नोट्स का सर्जन हमारे ज्वाइंट ऑपरेशन को प्रभावी और मजबूत करने में सहायक रहा है। भविष्य के लिए विचाराधीन एडिशनल चार ज्वाइंट लॉजिस्टिक नोट्स के साथ हम ऑप्टिमाइज्ड के उद्देश्य को और मजबूत करेंगे। अंडमान निकोबार कमांड ने एंटी पोचिंग, पाइरेसी ऑपरेशन, इंडियन ईईजेड में बचाव अभियान में भारतीय नौसेना, सेना और वायुसेना तटरक्षक बल के साथ शानदार समन्वय में मैरिटाइम अरिस्टेंट्स का संचालन किया। बड़ी मात्रा सीकुकम्बर जैसे अन्य प्रोहिबिटेड वस्तुओं को - पकड़ा है। वर्ष 2024 में कुल 22 ऑपरेशनों में हमने अवैध रूप से हमारी समुद्री सीमा को अनलाफुली क्रॉस करने वाले 863 लोगों को सफलतापूर्वक रोका, 77 पोचर्स और 17 नावों को पकड़ा है।“

CHAPTER V

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

The Committee found that the ECHS provides cashless and capless healthcare to ex-servicemen. The aim of ECHS is to provide quality healthcare to Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Pensioners and their dependents.

5.2 The Committee have been intimated that ECHS has 30 Regional Centres, 427 ECHS Polyclinics and 2697 Health Care Organizations for providing treatment. ECHS provides health care to over 59 lakh beneficiaries, including primary beneficiaries, spouses, parents, dependent children and others. ECHS employs over 6655 personnel, including 1589 doctors, 2528 paramedics and 2538 non-medical contractual employees.

5.3 In reply to a question about the categorization of ECHS Polyclinics, the Ministry apprised the Committee through a written reply as under:

(i) Polyclinics are categorized as either Military or Non-Military, depending on whether a Military hospital is co-located or not and are further categorized into five types, i.e. Type A to E, based on the number of Ex-servicemen residing in that area. They are :-

Ser No.	Category of Polyclinic	No. of Ex-Servicemen
(i)	Type A	Above 20,000
(ii)	Type B	Above 10,000
(iii)	Type C	Above 5,000
(iv)	Type D	Above 2,500
(v)	Type E (Mobile)	Above 1,500 (for remote areas)

(ii) Approximately 59 lakh beneficiaries including ESM and their dependents are presently availing ECHS benefits.

(iii) The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on various Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time for opening new Polyclinics or upgrading /downgrading existing polyclinics.

Budget

5.4 The details of projections, allocation and expenditure by ECHS for the last five years along with projections for 2025-26 are as follows:

FY	Projection (Rs. In Crs)	Allocation (Rs. In Crs)	Expenditure (Rs. In Crs)
2019-20	5733.00	5199.21	5193.60
2020-21	6892.00	5321.28	4579.63
2021-22	5643.61	4870.75	4864.66
2022-23	7583.02	6929.07	6892.79
2023-24	9880.99	9880.99	9831.86
2024-25	9683.72	9429.00*	6983.50 (As on 13.01.2025)
2025-26	12,193.60	8317	-
*Includes Rs 2461.00 cr in the supplementary budget (original BE Rs 6868.00 cr)			

5.5 The Ministry furnished the following information to the Committee about additional funds provided at the supplementary stage during FY 2024-25:

“In FY 2024-25, an additional allocation of Rs. 1,500 Crore has been made to ECHS at First Supplementary Stage.”

5.6 On the issue of budgetary allocations and expenditure, a representative of ECHS submitted as under:

“सर, अगर हम बजट का ब्रेक अप देखें तो वर्ष-2023-24 में लगभग 9800 करोड़ रुपये स्कीम पर खर्च हुए थे। इसका 85 परसेंट पैसा इम्पैनल्ड हॉस्पिटल्स, डायग्नोस्टिक सेंटर्स पर खर्च हुआ है। हम लोग डायरेक्टली पॉलीक्लिनिक्स के लिए डीजीएफएमएस के माध्यम

से दवाइयां खरीद कर प्रोवाइड करते हैं। उसकी राशि लगभग 1200 करोड़ रुपये थी और हमारा जो कॉन्ट्रैक्टुअल स्टाफ है, जिनके माध्यम से हम पॉलीक्लिनिक्स में ये सर्विस पहुंचा पाते हैं, इसका खर्चा तीन परसेंट से कम ही है।”

5.7 The Committee desired to know about steps taken to address the shortage of medicines in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“The endeavour has been to try and improve the existing system to address the issue of shortage of medicines in ECHS Polyclinic with each step to avoid inconvenience to ECHS beneficiaries. In order to remove the shortage of medicines, following recent measures have been undertaken : -

(i) The monetary ceiling limit of purchase that can be carried out from Authorised Local Chemist (ALC) has been doubled as under: -

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) | Type ‘A’&‘B’ Polyclinic | - Rs 5 Lakh per month. |
| (ii) | Type ‘C’ Polyclinic | - Rs 3 Lakh per month. |
| (iii) | Type ‘D’ Polyclinic | - Rs 2 Lakh per month. |

(ii) If the medicine is still not available even through an ALC, the beneficiary will be given a Not Available (NA) certificate to purchase from the market. The Government vide its letter dated 25.3.2022 decided to extend the period from 15 days to 30 days for purchase of Not Available (NA) medicines and consumables from open market on reimbursement basis at a time subject to the maximum value of medicines and consumables not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- each time under the general conditions and Rs. 75,000/- each time under the special conditions. For Cancer Medicines, the maximum value of purchase has also been enhanced from Rs. 2 Lakh to Rs. 5 Lakh each time.

(iii) In addition, a common formulary has been prepared and preparation of demand has been automated.

5.8 The Committee desired to know about steps taken to redress the shortage of medical equipments in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“The steps being taken to address equipment shortages is as under:-

- (a) A through assessment of medical equipment in polyclinics is underway to identify shortages. If equipment is faulty, polyclinics are encouraged to get it repaired through SEMO, the primary vendor, or EME echelon.
- (b) For equipment that is beyond economical repair (BER), polyclinics are obtaining the necessary certificates and submitting demand requests to AFMSD (Armed Forces Medical Stores Depot) for replacement.
- (c) Continuous coordination with DGAFMS ensures efficient management and supply of medical equipment.
- (d) Other procurement channels, such as direct procurement by DGDS (Director General Dental Services) for dental equipment or through Command HQs, are being explored to expedite equipment replacement.
- (e) An equipment management module is being developed within the ECHS IT system to provide constant feedback on usage and maintenance needs, enabling quick action to prevent breakdowns and shortages.”

5.9 On the issue of receiving any official complaints in the past five years regarding refusal of treatment of ECHS members by empanelled hospitals, the Ministry submitted as under:

“As per record available with this office, there is only one official complaint against ES Hospital, Villupuram (Tamil Nadu) received in Oct 2018 by the Ministry regarding refusal of treatment to ECHS Beneficiary by the empanelled hospital during past five years. The said hospital was dis-empanelled in February 2019.”

5.10 The Committee desired to know about measures being contemplated to provide the facilities of mobile ECHS Polyclinics and other relevant Medicare facilities, particularly for women and children, in remote areas of the country, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones. Under the scheme, there is a provision for Mobile Polyclinics for catering to requirements of far flung areas. 17 Mobile Polyclinics have been sanctioned in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.

Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far flung areas where Polyclinics are not available.”

5.11 When asked regarding the remedial measures taken by the Ministry to overcome unutilised vacancies in the ECHS polyclinics, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

“In order to fill up the vacancies, part time employment with suitable remuneration is being made in accordance with the existing policy.”

Authorized and actual manpower for ECHS Polyclinics

5.12 As regards to number of authorized and actual manpower for ECHS Polyclinics, the Ministry through written reply apprised the Committee as under:

“(i) Details of authorised and actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics are as under:-

Sl. No.	Appointment	Auth Manpower	Actual Manpower	Additional Sactioned in 2024
(i)	Medical Officer	955	955	175
(ii)	Medical Specialist	200	124	66

(iii)	Radiologist	61	20	34
(iv)	Gynaecologist	61	59	34
(v)	Dental Officer	471	425	57
(vi)	OIC Polyclinic	410	410	23
(vii)	Para Medical	2528	2528	286
(viii)	Driver	488	488	57
(ix)	Non Medical Staff	1640	1640	625
	Total	6814	6649	1357

(ii) There has been no shortfall in the existing authorised manpower. The unutilised vacancies are due to non-availability of Specialists in small town and remote areas. This is a dynamic figure and rationalization within existing authorisation is undertaken accordingly. However, the ever increasing beneficiary base has mandated initiation of a proposal to enhance the contractual manpower.

(iii) An additional 1357 contractual manpower has been sanctioned for the newly sanctioned 23 Polyclinics and 50 upgraded polyclinics during the year 2024.”

5.13 During the oral evidence of the Committee, on the issue of telemedicine, a representative of ECHS submitted as under:

“सर, टेलीमेडिसिन की बात कही गई है। टेलीमेडिसिन के लिए हम लोग सीक डै-संस्था, जो कि सरकार की आईटी कंपनी है, उसके माध्यम से हमने कोशिश की है कि टेलीमेडिसिन का एक सॉफ्टवेयर हम बनाएं। वह अभी पायलट स्टेज में चल रहा है। जब वह सॉफ्टवेयर बन जाएगा, तो हम सिर्फ हॉस्पिटल्स में ही नहीं, बल्कि हमारे जो लगभग 427 पॉलीक्लिनिक्स हैं, हम उन सब पॉलीक्लिनिक्स में जितने भी डॉक्टर्स हैं, उन सबके कंप्यूटर पर यह सॉफ्टवेयर चलाएंगे, ताकि हमारे जितने भी एक्स-सर्विसमैन हैं, उनको अपने घर से यहां आने की जरूरत न हो और अपने घर से ही

कन्सलटेशन की सारी व्यवस्था वे कर सकें। सी-डैक की तरफ से हम लोग यह व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं।“

5.14 The Committee desired to know about proposal for enhancing the contractual manpower in ECHS polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Establishment of 23 new Polyclinics, upgradation of 50 ECHS Polyclinics has been sanctioned. The establishment of new polyclinics, upgradation of polyclinics will enhance the authorised number of contractual employees by around 1357.”

Payment of Pending Bills by ECHS to Empanelled Private Hospitals

5.15 When asked regarding the steps being taken by the Ministry to redress the problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals pending for payment, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

“Steps taken to redress the problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of private recognized hospitals are as under:-

- (i) Continuous monitoring of Turn Around Time (TAT) with Bill Processing Agencies (BPA).
- (ii) Monitoring of response to ‘Need More Information (NMI)’ cases with empanelled hospitals for early processing.
- (iii) More doctors have been assigned to Regional Centres (RC’s) under heavy bill processing workloads to accelerate approvals.
- (iv) A centralised dashboard is being established to track the status of all submitted, approved, and pending bills, ensuring better transparency and faster processing.”

ECHS in far-flung areas

5.16 On being asked about the steps taken by Ministry to increase the outreach of ECHS in far-flung areas, the Ministry forwarded the following information:

“The requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones. Under the scheme, there is a provision for Mobile Polyclinics for catering to requirements of far flung areas. 17 Mobile Polyclinics have been sanctioned in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.

Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far flung areas where Polyclinics are not available.

The Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) rates were reduced in non-CGHS areas/cities to facilitate more hospitals to empanel with the ECHS.”

CHAPTER VI

DIRECTORATE GENERAL ARMED FORCE MEDICAL SERVICES **(DGAFMS)**

The Committee understand that the Government of India in 1948, integrated the medical services of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and Royal Indian Air Force into the Armed Forces Medical Service and placed the services under the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services. The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters in so far as they related to the Armed Forces. The heads of medical services of Army, Navy and Air Force will be responsible for functioning of these services under the respective Service Chiefs in accordance with any general policy directions that may be given by the DGAFMS and are the Medical Advisors to their respective Services. The Armed Forces Medical Services consist of Army Medical Corps (AMC) including AMC (NT), Army Dental Corps (AD Corps) and Military Nursing Service.

The capital and revenue Budget of AFMS during the last 3 years is as follows: -

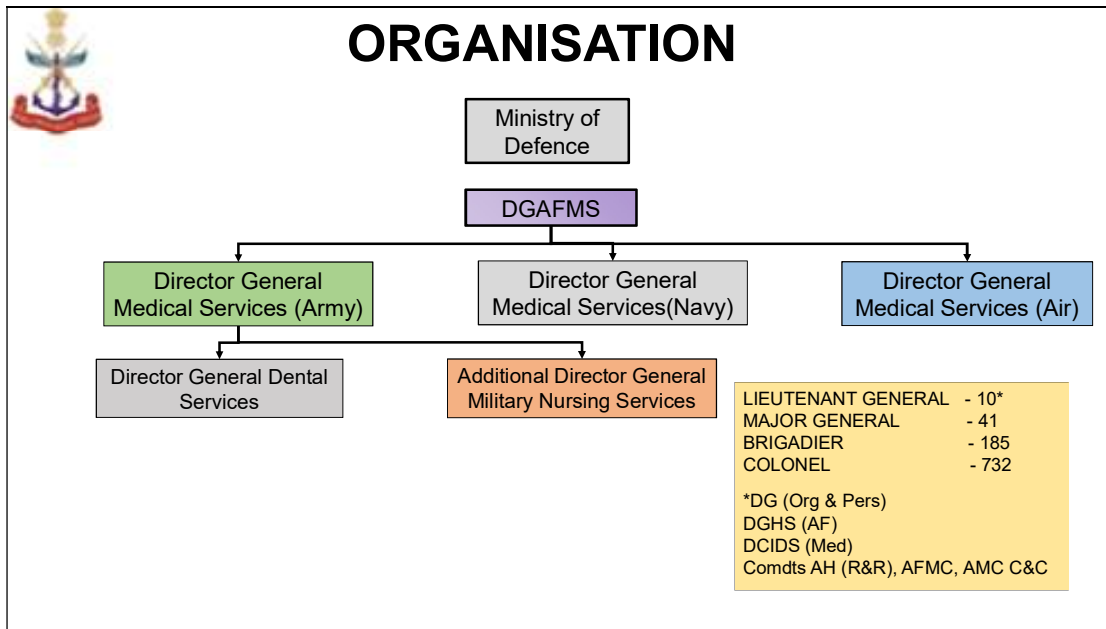
Year	Capital Budget (in crore)	Revenue Budget (in crore)
2023-24	691	1978
2024-25	794	2112
2025-26	891	2250

6.2 During oral evidence, a representative apprised the Committee about the role of DGAFMS as under:

“....It is the first truly tri-service organization and the structure by the Dr. B. C. Roy Committee and the DGAFMS is responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical matters related to the Armed Forces. Our mission is the delivery of comprehensive medical care of highest standards during operations as well as peacetime within the country and abroad, along with seamless medical logistics support, focused research and training of personnel.”

Organisation of Armed Forces Medical Services

6.3 With regard to organizational structure, a representative of the DGAFMS through Power Point presentation shown slide to the Committee as under:



(PPT slide, 18.2.2025)

6.4 Further, a representative, submitted before the Committee as under:

“.....This is the organization of the office of the DGAFMS and the officers with the DGAFMS. We have the three DGs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and there is a total of 10 Lieutenant Generals who are a part of the organization and along with 41 Major Generals and equivalent, 185 Brigadiers and equivalent and such like. In the office of the DGAFMS, these are the staff officers, the DG organization personnel, a rank of a Lieutenant General, the DG hospital services, rank of a Lieutenant General equivalent and of course ADG E&S.”

Medical Services of Army, Navy and Air Force

6.5 The Committee learnt that the medical services of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force are basically looked after by the Directors General of the

medical services of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The DGMS Army has 113 military hospitals and 99 field hospitals, Navy 10 naval hospitals and of course the DGMS Air 12 Air Force hospitals and of course the DCIDS is another officer of the rank of Lieutenant General who is the advisor to the Chief of Defence Staff on certain aspects of the AFMS such as CBRN, IT and Defence Cooperation.

6.6 The Committee also learnt that the Director General Dental Services come under the DGMS Army, and he or she is mandated to provide holistic dental care to the entire Armed Forces at various stations.

Role of AFMS in War, Peace and HADR duties

6.7 As regards to role of DGAFMS during war and peace time, a representative informed the Committee that in both peace and war, the Armed Forces Medical Services provide comprehensive health care in terms of evacuation, treatment, and the health of casualties, in addition to aid to civil power and support to friendly foreign countries. Medical care in war and peace for a large number of personnel is provided through 135 AFMS hospitals, including 99 field hospitals, 77 station Medicare centres, and 67 sick bays. This care is delivered in high-altitude deserts, jungles, on board ships and aircraft, and during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, as well as aid to civil authorities in remote parts of the country and abroad.

6.8 Further, it was also informed that the levels of care include primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary care, with various facilities such as military hospitals, base hospitals, zonal hospitals, command hospitals, and the apex Army Hospital Research and Referral, totalling 234 hospitals. The dental infrastructure consists of six command military dental centres, 102 dental centres, and 164 dental sections in field hospitals.

6.9 It was also submitted by the representative that the AFMS health policies are guided by national guidelines, following national programs, and emergency response protocols. They aid in disasters and epidemics in coordination with other agencies such as the NDMA, NDRF, MoHFW, and MHA. The AFMS interacts with various departments of different Ministries for seamless integration of national guidelines. They treat armed forces personnel from friendly foreign countries as required, and AYUSH facilities are also provided in AFMS hospitals.

6.10 Further, submitted that the Preventive care includes medical examinations, environmental health, entomological surveillance (insects), vaccinations, family welfare activities, school and adolescent health initiatives. Comprehensive health care is provided, along with training and epidemiological intelligence, which forewarns troops about future health hazards. In the field, medical care progresses from MI rooms to hospitals, then to general hospitals. In war, care is provided at regimental aid posts or casualty sites, advanced dressing stations, forward surgical centres, and general hospitals. In peace, care is provided at peripheral hospitals, followed by zonal and army hospitals.

Specialist care in AFMS

6.11 With regard to availability of specialist care in AFMS, a representative apprised the Committee as under:-

“Specialist care is available at zonal hospitals, which provide secondary care and basic specialties. Command hospitals serve as tertiary care facilities where super-specialized care is available, encompassing 23 different super specialties and 156 super specialized centres within the Armed Forces Medical Services.”

Training and Medical Research in AFMS

6.12 During oral evidence on the issue of training and medical research in AFMS, a representative of DGAFMS apprised the Committee as under:

“Regarding training and research, the AFMC provides undergraduate, postgraduate, and super specialization training, as well as paramedical training. Command hospitals, the Army Hospital, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, INHS Asvini, and base hospital Delhi also provide postgraduate and paramedical training. The AFMC, established in 1948, is the apex premier medical institution of the Armed Forces Medical Services, offering comprehensive postgraduation, under-graduation and paramedical training, which started in 1948. It also has a nursing college and a dental wing. The Military Nursing is an all-women service providing training in several hospitals, with an intake of 220 per year and various postgraduate specialty nursing courses.”

6.13 It was also informed that the AFMS collaborates with several national bodies, including the AIIMS, Department of Biotechnology, IITs, ICMR, DoPT Government of India, and MoHFW for research and training.

Procurement of Equipment and Stores for the Armed Forces

6.14 With regard to procurement of equipment and stores for Armed Forces, a representative during oral evidence submitted as under:

“The office of the DGAFMS acts as the procuring agency for capital procurement of medical equipment and stores, with financial powers for capital procurement vested in the DGAFMS office. Central rate contracts for consumables, procurement policies, and supply chain management are formulated by the DGAFMS, which also oversees the upgradation of military equipment scales to ensure hospitals are equipped with modern technology. Financial powers for revenue procurement are vested with service headquarters, formation headquarters, and direct demanding officers in various military hospitals, as well as the Armed Forces Medical Store Depot.

The capital budget has increased by about 12.21 per cent, primarily to improve operational readiness, modernization, and

capacity building. The revenue budget has seen a more modest increase of 6.53 per cent, mainly for sustenance, increased deployment, and of course inflation.”

Achievement of AFMS

6.15 With regard to achievement made by AFMS, a representative apprised the the Committee as under:

“The achievements of the AFMS include the establishment of the Artificial Limb Centre in Pune, a state-of-the-art institution providing prosthetics for amputee soldiers who won seven medals during the Para Asian Games 2023 in China. Some of the images are there. The Armed Forces Central for Computational Medicine, inaugurated by the hon. President of India on 1st December, 2023, focuses on research in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data sciences. The Tele MANAS has been established for mental health assistance across States for the armed forces, in collaboration with NIMHANS Bangalore and IIIT Bangalore. Genetic research in the AFMS has advanced, with next-generation genetic sequencing established at the Army Hospital Research and Referral and the Armed Forces Medical College. The nation's only licensed facility for frozen RBCs is located at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre in Delhi, which can provide blood with a shelf life of up to five years.

Telemedicine services, such as M-Swasth, a satellite-based warship assistance and support tele-helpline, connect ships, submarines, and remote establishments in the Navy with specialists for consultation, supported by the dedicated naval satellite Rukmini. The AFMC was awarded the President's Colour on December 1, 2023, by the hon. President of India, Shrimati Draupadi Murmu, marking a momentous occasion for the AFMS and AFMC. This is a special commemorative coin, stamp and the first day cover were also released by the hon. President on that occasion which is a very momentous occasion for the AFMS and AFMC. The AFMS has also provided humanitarian aid and assistance during recent disasters, such as the Wayanad floods.”

Perspective planning

6.16 On the issue of perspective planning, a representative submitted as under:

“Perspective planning has been conducted for professional and technical advancement, with administration and execution managed by the respective services. The AFMS facilitates and coordinates hospital project operations and enables the adoption and incorporation of IT services to integrate tri-service digital healthcare and hospital information systems, which are currently in process.”

PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ARMY

Budget

The Committee note that Indian Army is a vital land component of the Armed Forces. The Indian Army strengthens the idea of India and lives by national values, dedicated to preserving national interests, safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of our Nation. The challenges before the Army include thwarting proxy wars, defeating/arresting internal threats, assisting_ the Government and the people of India during all needs and crises including natural and manmade disasters. It is very important to mention here that our Army very deftly leads and counters the insurgencies and terrorists infiltrations alongwith the support of other Forces.

To perform all the duties with perfection, the Army needs Revenue as well as Capital Budget as per the projection. For the financial year 2025-26, the Army projected for Rs. 2,14,727.72 crore and allocated Rs. 2,06,200.00 crore, just Rs. 8527.72 crore less than the projection. During the financial year 2024-25, against the projection of Rs 2,14,577.03 crore, it was allocated Rs. 1,91,319.60 crore, which was reduced by Rs. 23257.43 crore. In the RE same year, the Army made a projection of Rs. 2,01,289.26 crore but the allocation was Rs 1,98,427.82 crore. The Committee find that during FY 2024-25 only Rs 1,49,300.75 crore was spent till December, 2024 and Rs 49127.07 crore is to be spent in the coming three months. This, in the opinion of the Committee, would require prudent fiscal planning and concerted efforts. The Committee would like to know the final outcome in this regard from the Ministry consequent to the end of Financial Year while

furnishing the Action Taken Notes. The Committee understand that a major portion of the budget head primarily goes towards salary/recurring expenses which is a fixed expenditure. The non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Army. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the trend which has been introduced with favourable allocation this year under the Revenue Head should be continued in the coming years also. It is needless to state here that regular interactions may be held with the Ministry of Finance as soon as the proposals for the subsequent budget are formed.

2. The Committee note that under Capital Head, in BE for the financial year 2025-26, Army's projection was Rs. 33,400.68 crore and like that of the previous year similar amount has been allocated to it. In RE 2024-25, the projection of the Army was Rs. 34,670.21 crore and Rs. 34226.95 crore was allocated. The Committee find that upto December 2024, Rs. 22128.47 crore was spent. They hope that the remaining fund will be gainfully utilized by the end of the current financial year. However, the expenditure in FY 2024-25 upto December, 2024 was only Rs. 22,128.47 crore. The Committee understand that Capital Budget usually provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc, which are essential not only for the modernization of the Army but also to safeguard territorial integrity of the nation. The Committee feel that Capital Projection should be incremental in nature, invariably consistent and it should not be less than that of a previous year so that it can absorb the inflationary trends. The Committee opine that though the expenditure on salaries of manpower deployed is fixed and is an essential component, the budget should ensure induction of state-of-the-art weapon systems and development of other

infrastructure at the borders which, at any cost, cannot be compromised. The Committee feel that our expenditure should be in proportion to the increase in defence spending of our neighbours. Therefore, the Committee feel that the Capital Budget of the Army should be sufficient to have a deterrent capacity to ward off adversaries in case of any hostility.

Percentage Share of Army Budget

3. Notwithstanding the percentage share of the Army budget, the Committee have been assured by the representative of the Ministry of Defence that any additional budget required for priority operations, sustenance and Modernization of the Indian Army will be met at the revised/supplementary stage.

Keeping in view the important role of Army to secure the vast land borders and conduct counter insurgency operations, the Committee hope that fund will not be an issue of concern for the Army and as per submission made by the Ministry, Army's further requirement will be met at the revised/supplementary stage.

Budget for Modernization

4. The Committee note from the replies submitted that in the Financial Year 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 27,421.33 crore was allocated to Army at BE stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head. The submissions made by the Ministry during oral evidence revealed that the Capital Budget has two components. The first is the modernization through the procurement of new equipment and weapon platforms which amounts to Rs. 26,100 crore or 78 per cent of the total allocation under the Capital Head in the financial year 2025-26. The Committee have been informed that the modernisation of the Indian Army is an ongoing process involving significant procurement efforts aimed at enhancing its overall combat effectiveness and undertaking the

challenges of threat perceptions. The Committee have also been informed that the Indian Army is concentrating on improving fire power lethality, mobility and night fighting capabilities and efforts are also being made to scale up the use of drones and counter-drone technologies in response to evolving threats. The Committee have been informed that logistics capacities and efficiencies are being enhanced through the utilisation of logistic drones and robotic mules and the focus is also on infrastructure development. The Committee are happy to know that this year also, modernisation through induction of indigenous weapons and platforms is being explored further. The Committee find that there is an upward trend in more and more contracts executed by Indian vendors and currently, 154 out of 175 categories of ammunitions have been indigenized and the Indian Army aims to achieve complete indigenization of its ammunition requirements by 2030. The Committee appreciate the fact that out of 107 AoNs, 106 AoNs, that is, 99 per cent, have been accorded to Indian vendors. In view of this renewed emphasis on modernization, the Committee recommend that modernization of the Army should be accorded top priority in view of the current global scenario and they also emphasise here that in case of any further need, all out efforts should be undertaken by the Ministry to meet Army's budgetary requirements at the revised/supplementary grant stage.

Modernisation and Modern Warfare Tactics

5. The Committee note that the Indian Army is actively involved in various technology-related national missions from 6G initiatives to the latest National Quantum Mission. They also find that Indian Institutes of Technology and other research and development establishments have facilitated technology conversion alongwith identified 16 technology clusters each with specific responsibilities and outcomes. The Committee have been informed that a high-power computing AI cloud is being developed effectively for all the three Services. In this regard, Indian Army had taken the initiative and Indian Army AI Incubation Centre was opened in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Ltd. and is in the process of signing an MoU with IIT, Madras for innovations. The Military College of Telecommunication Engineering has become a strategic partner in Indian AI Mission, Chips to Startup Mission, and quantum key distribution projects. It has also come to the knowledge of the Committee that the Indian Army is also working in block chain technology with the collaboration of Ministry of Electronics and IT, deep technology projects and for secure, space-based vehicle tracking and convoy management systems with an Indian constellation. The Committee understand that conventional wars were fought in only three modes *i.e.*, land, air and water, but recently there is a paradigm shift in the technology used in fighting a war. There have been innovations and experiments in western countries, and the use of drones, including sea-drones, space, cyberspace, kinetic and non-kinetic format etc. has enveloped the sphere of war, which can be fought from very distant locations through a remote-controlled methodology.

In this regard, the Committee are confident that the technology-related National Missions, National Quantum Mission and high-power computing AI cloud will definitely enable our Armed Forces to develop a robust digital infrastructure, besides improving the existing weaponry. While appreciating all these critical developments, the Committee, can here, only recommend that all the initiatives/programs must follow laid-down time lines of their technological delivery to enable the Forces to use and adapt themselves in a timely manner.

Indigenization

6. The Committee find from the replies submitted by the Ministry that during the last five financial year (2019-20 to 2023-24) and current Financial year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), total 335 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Army, out of which 280 contracts worth about 89.10% of total contracts value, have been signed with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment.

Further, the Committee find that the Ministry of Defence is committed to Aatmanirbharta in Defence. The Ministry emphasized on self reliance & Make in India, which is evident from the initiatives undertaken i.e. Highest priority to procurement under Buy (Indian IDDM) category, introduction of new category of Buy (Global Manufacture in India) to give push to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, increased Indigenous Content (IC) in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020, inclusion of provision for minimum 50% IC in the form of indigenous material/ components/ software in the equipment being acquired with an aim at boosting indigenous production and reduce import dependency, notification of 'Positive Indigenization Lists' on a periodic basis to promote Aatmanirbharta out of which five Positive Indigenization Lists comprising of 509

platforms/equipment have been issued, Self-Reliance in Indian Defence eco system with “No foreign sourcing”, foreign procurements only as exceptions with prior approval of Defence Acquisition Council and earmarking of 75% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25.

The submissions made by the representative during oral evidence revealed that the mission statement for the Indian Army is to transform the Indian Army into an *atmanirbhar*, future-ready force that stands as a key pillar of the national security apparatus that contributes meaningfully to nation building, while its edifice remains anchored in efficient and holistic human resource management. The Committee are happy to know that the Indian Army’s transformation is aligned with the year of reforms as spelt out by Hon. Raksha Mantri ji and the Indian Army has extended its ‘Year of Transformation’ initiatives in 2023 into a ‘Decade of Transformation’ from 2023 to 2032 for comprehensive approach to reforms across five key pillars: jointness and integration, force restructuring, modernisation and technology infusion, systems and process, and human resource management by commitment to self-reliance in line with the national policy of *Atmanirbharata*. The Committee have also been informed that through strategic financial reforms, digital innovation and a push for domestic production, the Indian Army aims to strengthen its operation readiness while focussing on *atmanirbharata*.

While appreciating the efforts, made by the Ministry towards indigenization, the Committee recommend that consistent and systematic efforts alongwith the meticulous planning should be in place to maintain this pace of *atmanirbhar* and future ready force and the Ministry should extend all the support in this regard by imbibing the principle of ‘one step ahead’.

Force level of Army

7. The Committee are happy to note that acquisition of equipment is an ongoing process and equipment holdings (authorization and holdings of equipment etc) keep on changing based on obsolescence, de-induction and new inductions. The Committee have been apprised that a focused approach has been adopted to make up the deficiencies by way of urgent procurement of Weapons/equipment/ammunition items to meet the operational requirements through the delegated financial and Emergency Procurement powers of the Indian Army.

The Committee have been informed that the Indian Army has successfully implemented significant reorganisations within its Cyber, Electronic Warfare and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Units and also establishing new combat units and headquarters that prioritise emerging technologies including manned and unmanned teams.

The Committee have also been informed that Indian Army is committed to meet the evolving requirements of theaterisation and greater integration with the other two Services with a view to Force structuring which is the requirements of contemporary and future battlefield. The Committee are also happy to note that all the three Services are working towards one common goal and enhancing their integration through pursuits in common operational planning process, communications, technology development, exchange of subject matter experts and centres of excellence, common digitised maps and georeferencing systems, unmanned aerial vehicle assets, harmonising intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance resources, joint standard operating procedures and integrated outsourcing.

The Committee have further been informed about updated training content and methodology which reviewed regularly and cover the aspects of latest operational concepts and environmental realities including emerging domains of warfare to include kinetic & non-kinetic warfare, cyber, drone, hybrid warfare etc. The Committee note that training curriculum include Electronic Warfare, Advance Weapons Systems, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics, CBRN Defence, Unmanned Systems and Stealth are being imparted to officers/soldiers of Army in view of modern battlefield requirements.

The Committee express their immense satisfaction over the continuous effort being made to further augment the capacity of the hitherto existing capable forces in the army.

Women empowerment

8. The Committee are happy to learn that a number of steps have been taken to ensure induction of more women in Indian Army. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Defence has reserved 10% seats for girls in all Sainik Schools across India w.e.f. 2021-22 and the girls students have also been allowed to take RIMC and RMS entrance exams w.e.f. 2022-23 onwards. The Committee have also been informed that women officers are being inducted into 13 Arms & Services including Artillery, Army Air Defence, Engineers, Signals, Intelligence Corps, Army Aviation, Army Service Corps, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Ordnance Corps, Judge Advocate General, Corps of Military Police, Medical Services and Remount and Veterinary Corps. The Committee are confident that the new initiatives such as increase of women officers vacancies from 80 per year to 144 per year, induction of women officers at NDA, entry of women officers as pilots in army aviation, ample opportunities to women medical officers in various appointments including leadership

positions in AMC and equal opportunities to all women medical officers for their career progression taken by the Army will certainly a new chapter with respect to induction of women officers in the Army. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Indian Army for their commitment towards women empowerment. The Committee recommend that the efforts made by the army towards women empowerment will remain unabated in the years to come so that a level playing field for the women shall be created.

Role of Army during disaster

9. Role of the Army in providing relief during natural disasters and calamities is yet another success story. The Indian Army is often the first responder in times of natural disaster and calamities by virtue of its inherent organizational structure and deployment Pan-India. Providing humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities remains a priority for the Indian Army for which the Army trains and liaises with the civil administration and other stakeholders on a periodic basis. The Indian Army has also allocated budget to upgrade chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear Quick Reaction Teams and Quick Reaction Medical Teams. The Indian Army have established 17 Equipment Bricks dedicated to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Missions, ensuring timely and effective responses during crisis. The Committee wish the Army all success in their endeavour, for which people of our country feel secure even during calamities.

AIR FORCE

Budgetary Provisions

10. While examining Demand Nos. 19 & 20 in respect of the Air Force for the year 2025-26, the Committee find that in Revenue Section, Air Force projected Rs. 66,530.27 crore against which an allocation of Rs.

53,700.00 crore has been made. The allocation is deficient by Rs. 12,830.27 crore and approximately 19 per cent lower than the projection.

As informed, the non-salary expenditure caters to the expenses on stores, ration, transportation, fuel, etc. which are essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Air Force, therefore, 19 per cent cut in the allocation may hamper the training and operational preparedness of the Air Force. Therefore, to avoid any such contingency situation, the Committee hope that during Supplementary Grants and Revised Estimate stages, the Ministry will take into consideration this fact and make additional allocation as per the need of the force.

11. The Committee find that in Capital segment, the allocation has been same as that of the projected during 2025-26. It is a known fact that the Capital Budget of a department primarily provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development etc. and allocating as per projection shares determination on the part of the Government for potential development of the force. Moreover, during oral evidence, the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee that over the last five years, there has been an adequate allocation of funds both for capability enhancement and sustenance. The Capital Budget in the last five years has grown at an average grown rate of 8 per cent whereas the revenue budget has grown at a rate of 11 per cent. IAF's budget today is at 24 per cent of the total Defence capital budget. The Committee was further informed that other than the salaries, most of the expenditure is towards operational requirements. The Indian Air Force has prepared short, medium and long term plans for the future. The Indian Air Force will induct many new aircraft and systems in the next two years with the allotted budget, so that the existing gaps will be covered. The

Committee expect the Ministry to ensure that the allocated resources are fruitfully and judiciously utilized in full by Air Force so that modernisation trajectory of Air Force is not adversely affected.

Percentage Share of Air Force Budget

12. From the data supplied by the Ministry, the Committee note an evident increase in the percentage share of the revenue budget of the Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates. The budget of the Air Force increased from 9.27 per cent of DSE in 2020-21 to 10.25 per cent in 2025-26. The Committee find that although there is a marginal decrease in the capital budget share in FY 2025-26, the overall percentage has increased from 22.67 per cent in the year 2020-21 to 24.10 per cent in 2025-26. The Committee are of the considered view that overall percentage increase in the Air Force in the DSE budget will help galvanise the Indian Air Force.

Budget for Modernization

13. The Committee note that in the Financial Year 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 54,569.91 crore was allocated at BE stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head against which expenditure of Rs. 26973.72 crore has been incurred in Financial Year 2024-25 till December, 2024. In BE 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 59646.83 crore has been allotted to under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. Keeping in view the modernization of the Armed Forces especially during the current global scenario, the Committee recommend that the Air Force shall gainfully utilize the allocated fund for modernization and technological upgradation in armament and in the procurement of other vital platforms.

Planning and Procurement

14. The Committee note that major acquisitions/upgradations in different platform planned for FY 2025-26 include Low Level Radars, Electronic warfare Suite for helicopters, Light Combat Aircraft, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Multi-role Helicopter, GSAT, CHAFF & flares, Jammers, Wet Lease of Flight Refuelling Aircraft, Inflatable Decoy, Indigenous upgrade of SU-30 aircraft, Wind Profiler, SIGINT & COMJAM Aircraft, Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems, Mountain Radars, Navigation Radars, Bird Detection and Monitoring Radar which are likely to be completed by March, 2026. The Committee further note that acquisitions/upgradations in different platforms such as Approach Radars, Missile Systems, Aircrafts, Full Mission Simulators, Trainer Aircraft, Technology Missiles, Counter Drone systems, Close-in-Weapon System, High Power Radars, Aero engines, Avionics upgrades, Static Trans receivers etc. were done through indigenous sources during the FY 2019-24. The Committee recommend the Ministry of Defence to negotiate and finalise the acquisition plan in a time bound manner to help maintain the prescribed levels of equipments and aircrafts.

Indigenization

15. The Committee note that Air Force is vigorously pursuing indigenous production of fighters, transport, helicopters and trainer aircraft along with air to air weapons, air to ground weapons, surface to air guided weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles and radars. During deliberations also, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee that the capability of Su-30 is being upgraded through indigenous upgraded programme and will be executed by HAL, DRDO and private industry under the supervision of IAF. The Committee have

also been informed that Mark 1A would be a good example to showcase wherein IAF, DRDO and HAL have been able to build a contemporary all-weather light combat aircraft, which is designed on modular concept. The Committee further note that Air Force has indigenized many components required for regular use through its Base Repair Depots. The Committee understand that 100 per cent indigenization is not possible and feasible in a short period of time, nevertheless, they recommend that constant endeavours be made to achieve their goals in a phased manner and eventually making the country self reliant in this field.

Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI)

16. During deliberation before the Committee, a representative of the Air Force submitted that under the IAF's Modernisation of Airfields Infrastructure Programme, all 52 airfields are being equipped with the Modern Airfield System, out of which 6 are in North-Eastern part of India. 39 of the airfields are operating as joint user airfield. It was also submitted that the project of Next Generation Hardened Aircraft Shelters is being implemented at the forward airfield for the protection of critical assets. The Committee find that the joint usage of the Air Force airfields along with some of the advanced landing ground help in enhancing regional connectivity as part of Government UDAN scheme. All this, in turn, leads to significant financial and carbon emission saving. It was also informed that the modernization of airfields under Project MAFI, will provide modern aids which will meet the near future requirement of the IAF. While appreciating the pace of work, the Committee emphasize that the endeavour made by the Indian Air Force towards achieving the targets should be accomplished within a given time-frame.

Manpower

17. The Committee have been informed that as on 01 Oct 24, there were 11,916 officers (except Med/Dental branch) against an establishment of 12,929 leading to a deficiency of 1,013. The induction plans have been revamped so as to gradually bring the strength at par with the sanctioned establishment. IAF selection process comprises of AFCAT, AFSB evaluation, Computerised Pilot Selection System (when applicable) and stringent medical criteria. The Committee note that while adequate candidates register for joining IAF in the officer cadre, total number of candidates who eventually get commissioned varies. The Committee have also been informed that efforts are in place to increase the induction of officers which include establishing a dedicated department named 'DISHA' Cell at Air HQ to ensure wide publicity of Indian Air Force. With 'DISHA' by Indian Air force as the tag line, a focused Digital Publicity campaign is being undertaken on all social media platforms.

The Committee are also happy to note that the IAF has come up with a new concept of installing Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion (FCPs) at prominent locations across the country. FCP is a technologically advanced platform to provide information about the IAF and its career opportunities in a trendy, logical and appealing manner. In addition, Air Force participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Publicity stalls at various forums including youth festivals, career conclaves, youth related exhibitions etc. that are set up from time to time for the benefit of the targetted youth. Two customized buses with information displayed about IAF and consisting of a flying simulator in each bus, visit various educational institutes across the county to motivate students. The Committee find that these initiatives have borne positive results and there has been an steady increase in number of aspiring youth getting commissioned. While appreciating

the fact that recruitment in IAF is an ongoing process based on scheduled and unscheduled discharges, the Committee desire that the Ministry should ensure that there is no shortage of manpower essential for the operations of the Indian Air Force.

NAVY

Budget

18. The Committee understand that the Indian Navy has been playing a maritime leadership role in the Indian Ocean Region due to its multi-dimensional capabilities and active presence in the region. The environment in India's maritime neighbourhood is dynamic, with increasing instabilities, deepening geopolitical and ethnic faultiness, growing military capabilities and wide range of security challenges. These pose a combination of conventional and sub-conventional threats emanating from the seas. In this regard, a representative of Navy, during the presentation before the Committee, stated that a major share in the Navy's budget (i.e. Rs. 97149 crore) devoted towards the substantial increase in capital expenditure.

The Committee find that under Capital Head in BE 2025-26, allocation has been same as that of projected of Rs. 65352.82 crore. The allocation of BE 2025-26 is an increase of Rs. 2806.84 in compare to BE 2024-25. The Committee are of the considered view that increase in capital segment of the Navy budget will further help strengthen the Indian Navy.

In the revenue head, the Committee find that the allocation in 2025-26 is, however, marginally higher than the previous years. Noticing a higher projection during 2025-26, the Committee hope that the Ministry would provide additional grant during the supplementary/revised stage, if needed, to carry out their modernisation plan.

Budget for Modernization

19. The Committee understand that since 2021, there has been a continuous increase in the Navy's budget and Navy has been allocated Rs. 97,149.80 crores for FY 2025-26. The Committee have been informed that the every year expenditure has been getting higher than the allocation which are met through revised estimates. The Committee have also been informed that there has been a consistent increase in the allocation of the capital budget which reflects predominant focus on capability development of Navy. The Committee are happy to note that domestic to foreign capital expenditure ratio has also progressively improved since 2020 and the increase in domestic expenditure is attributed to the government's indigenization efforts. The Committee find that the Indian Navy has estimated expenditure for the modernization over the next ten years. The Committee are happy to know that considering the country's economic growth in the future, a budget growth of 10 percent has been projected and this estimated amount will prove sufficient for modernization plan of Indian Navy. The Committee are happy to note that the Navy has achieved a healthy capital to revenue ratio and it is being continuously improved resulting in capability-driven approach. Keeping in view the modernization of the Armed Forces in view of the current global scenario, the Committee recommend that the Navy shall gainfully utilized the allocated fund for modernization and technological upgradation in their platforms, infrastructure and armanents.

Indigenisation

20. During the oral evidence, a representative of Navy informed the Committee that there are plans to increase the number of ships and submarines to 234 in the next few years. At present, there are a total of

61 ships under construction, which will be inducted into the Navy by the year 2030. The Navy submitted that out of this, 60 ships are being built in our Indian shipyards. The Committee have also been informed that apart from under-construction projects, the Navy has been given the Government's Acceptance of Necessity for these inductions of which construction will start in the next one to two years. The Committee have further been informed that the process of indigenization of Indian Navy started much before. The Committee have been apprised that as on date, 72 Naval Ships and Submarines are under construction in Indian Shipyards. Appreciating the efforts made by the Navy towards achieving indigenization, the Committee recommend that concerted efforts be made to expedite completion of the ongoing projects so that the Navy attains greater degree of 'Aatmanirbharta' in near future.

Operational Preparedness

21. The Committee are of the considered view that for the safety and security of India's national interest, it is important to maintain peace and security in the maritime space.

The Committee have further been informed that besides attending to maritime territorial integrity, it is also the responsibility of the Indian Navy to act against piracy and other related crimes in sea. The Committee note that the Indian Navy has been continuously deployed in the Gulf of Aden and Adjouring Area since 2008 under anti-piracy operations. During the year 2024, the Navy has conducted six successful operations and rescued around 120 people. The Committee further note that in a similar incident, when INS Kolkata was assisting a hijacked ship, Navy commandos were air-dropped directly from an Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft about 1500 miles off the coast of India

during operations. The Gulf of Guinea region in West Africa is also a major source of oil imports. In view of the increasing incidents of piracy, in that region, the Navy has in 2022, started deploying ships at regular intervals in the Gulf of Guinea.

Expressing their satisfaction over the role and preparedness of the Indian Navy, the Committee feel that keeping in view the drastic change in the modern warfare tactics, the Navy will continue to protect the maritime zone and prevent piracy and other maritime security threats.

Manpower

22. During deliberations, a representative of the Navy informed the Committee that the Indian Navy has 10,045 officers, 59,828 sailors, 11,634 Agniveers and 32,171 defence civilians. The Committee have been informed that all personnel are fully trained for their work and are fully capable of maintaining combatability and operational preparedness of the Navy. The Committee have been informed that the Navy's manpower is quite limited, however, despite the small numbers, they are fully capable of fulfilling national responsibilities anywhere in the world. The Committee have also been informed that in promoting women's empowerment, the Indian Navy has taken several important steps. As of now, Navy have 642 women officers and 1718 women Agniveers. The Committee, while appreciating the measures taken by the Navy for enriching Human Resources Management, recommend that the state-of-art training be imparted both in logistics management and technology management so that our personnel can keep pace with the developments of modern warfare system.

JOINT STAFF

Budget

23. The Committee note that in the Budget Estimates for 2025-26, Joint Staff has made a projection of Rs. 6888.23 crore against which an allocation of Rs. 6352.82 crore has been provided resulting into a shortfall of Rs. 535.41 crore. The Committee understand that Joint Staff act as single point organization for jointmanship in Ministry of Defence which integrates policy, doctrine, war-fighting and procurement and find that during the years role of Joint Staff has risen many folds. Presently, it supports financial aspects and capability building of more than 120 units. The Committee note that 'Joint Staff' and 'Integrated Defence Staff' are two broad means of creating jointness amongst the Services at the HQ level. In 'Joint Staff', each Service provides inputs for Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Training, Procurement, etc., which are collated and thereafter fused at the apex level. The Committee have further been informed that in an 'Integrated Staff', the staff from the three Services is mixed in every constituent vertical function of Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Training, Procurement, etc., thereby lending greater inter-service collaboration from the ground up.

The Committee, while appreciating the role and responsibilities of HQ Integrated Defence staff/Joint Staff express their hope that the Ministry would provide additional grant, it required, at the supplementary/revised stage in order to strengthen the Joint Staff.

Operationalization of theatre commands

24. The Committee note that in pursuance of the Government's directive, the Indian Armed Forces are moving towards creating and operationalizing 'Theatre Commands'. The Committee find that this integrated structural framework shall ensure unity of resources,

planning process and execution of the operations in a given theatre, and in so doing, create seamless synergy between the constituent Services. The Committee have been informed that the Theatre Commands will have integral resources from all the Services to discharge their operational mandate. Accordingly, the staff required to tenet the billets in the Theatre Commands shall be drawn from all the three Services, to perform the staff functions associated with the 'Integrated Processes' in the fields of operations, intelligence gathering, planning, logistics, administration, HR management, etc. The Committee would like to be informed of the developments in this regard at the time of furnishing the Action Take replies.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

Budget

25. The Committee note that close to 59 lakh beneficiaries including ESM and their dependents are presently availing ECHS benefits. In the financial year 2024-25, the projection of ECHS was Rs. 9683.72 crore, however, there was a deduction of Rs. 2715.72 crore in allocation i.e. Rs. 6968 crore. The expenditure during FY 2024-25 was Rs. 6983.50 crore till 13 January, 2025. The Committee have also been informed that ECHS was also provided additional allocation of Rs. 2461.00 crore against allocated amount of Rs. 6968 crore at Supplementary stage. During the FY 202-26 the Projection was Rs. 12193.60 crore, however, allocation was Rs. 8317 crore. During oral evidence, the representatives of ECHS informed the Committee that in the year 2023-24, approximately Rs. 9800 crore rupees were spent on the scheme. The Committee have been informed that 85 percent of this money was spent on empanelled hospitals and diagnostic centers, medicines amounting around Rs. 1200 crore were directly provided to polyclinics

through DGAFMS and the expense for the contractual staff who deliver services in polyclinics, is less than three percent. The Committee at this stage can only recommend that the budget allocated at BE or RE stage may be fully utilized as such expenditure is for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen of our country.

Vacancies in ECHS Polyclinics

26. The Committee find that there is a marginal gap between authorized and actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics in some posts even after sanctioning of additional posts in the year 2024. The Committee have also been apprised that Government has sanctioned 23 New PCs, upgradation of 50 PCs and an additional 1357 contractual manpower in the year 2024. The Committee note that remedial measure have been taken by the Ministry to overcome unutilized vacancies in ECHS polyclinics. Since vacancies in hospitals/polyclinics affect the healthcare facilities being provided to the Ex-servicemen, the Committee recommend that such vacancies be fill-up in a time-bound manner to provide adequate healthcare facilities to our ex-soldiers so that they do not feel neglected after exiting the service.

Telemedicine

27. Telemedicine is yet another medical field which has come to the notice of the Committee. The Committee have been informed that ECHS have tried to create a telemedicine software through the C-DAC organization, which is a government IT company. The Committee have further been informed that it is currently in the pilot stage and once the software is developed, it will run not only in hospitals but also on the computers of all the doctors in approximately 427 polyclinics, so that ex-servicemen do not need to come to polyclinics and can operate from their homes for all kinds of medicines consultations. The

Committee would like to be apprised of the final development of the telemedicine software and its implementation in polyclinics.

Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empanelled private hospitals

28. From the reply submitted by the Ministry to resolve perennial problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals, the Committee note that the Ministry is continuously monitoring Turn Around Time (TAT) with Bill Processing Agencies (BPA), monitoring response to 'Need More Information (NMI)' cases with empanelled hospitals for early processing, assignment of more doctors to Regional Centres (RCs) under heavy bill processing workloads to accelerate approvals, establishment of centralized dashboard to track the status of all submitted, approved and pending bills and ensuring better transparency and faster processing. Currently, inflated bills from empanelled hospitals are leading to multiple review cycles, increasing approval times. The Committee wish and hope that such regular allotments are being provided by the Ministry to the ECHS, so the inconvenience being faced by the ESM would be resolved, and the private hospital would not reject ESM for admission and treatment.

While lauding the efforts taken by the Ministry in clearing the pending bills, the Committee express their concern that the issue of pendency surfaces before the Committee during the examination of DFGs every year. In this regard before commenting anything substantial, the Committee would like to be apprised on the following sets of information:

- (i) The numbers of ESM/Dependents who approached all the polyclinics combined during the last three years;

- (ii) The number of ESM who approached all defence hospitals combined for treatment of themselves and the dependent during the last three years; and
- (iii) The number of ex serviceman/dependent who were referred for super specialty treatment in private hospitals.

The idea to gather such statistics is to come to a conclusion as to arrive at a comparable figure whether more referrals were done or they were treated in polyclinics/defence hospitals. These figures may be supplied while furnishing the Action Taken Notes to the Committee.

ECHS in far-flung areas

29. The Committee note that in order to increase the outreach of ECHS in far-flung areas, the Ministry have sanctioned 17 Mobile Polyclinics in the State of Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal. These Mobile Polyclinics offer Medical Services to all beneficiaries including women & children also. Besides this, the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) rates were reduced in non-CGHS areas/cities to facilitate more hospitals to empanel with the ECHS. In addition to that, a Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) has been granted to all ECHS beneficiaries who are residing in far-flung areas where Polyclinics are not available. Further, the requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for upgrading/downgrading the existing ones.

The Committee express their satisfaction that over the years, with the increase in ESM, the organization is growing and devising new methods to help ESM. The Committee hope that with these new proposed arrangements to be put in place in the coming years,

medical related problems of ESM would be minimized and ex-soldiers will not be facing any healthcare problems.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL ARMED FORCE MEDICAL SERVICES
(DGAFMS)

DGAFMS

30. The Committee note that the medical services of the Army, Navy and the Air Force are basically looked after by the Directors General of the Medical services of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (DGAFMS). The Committee have been informed that the DGMS Army has 113 military hospitals and 99 field hospitals, Navy has 10 naval hospitals and the DGMS Air has 2 Air Force hospitals and of course the DCIDS is another officer of the rank of Lieutenant General who is the advisor to the Chief of Defence Staff on certain aspects of the AFMS such as CBRN, IT and Defence Cooperation. It has also been noticed that there has been an increase in the fund allocations both in Capital and Revenue heads to AFMS. While appreciating the role and responsibilities of DGAFMS in medical services, the Committee recommend the Ministry to provide adequate grant in case of new hospitals/medical facilities which are required to be set up for serving personnel of the Armed Forces.

Role of AFMS in War, Peace and HADR duties

31. The Committee note that medical care in war and peace for a large number of personnel is provided through 135 AFMS hospitals, including 99 field hospitals, 77 station Medicare centres, and 67 sick bays. The Committee find that this care is delivered in high-altitude deserts, jungles, on board ships and aircraft, and during humanitarian

assistance and disaster relief operations, as well as aid to civil authorities in remote parts of the country and abroad. The Committee wish the AFMS all success in their endeavour, for which armed force personnel feel secure during war and peace time. They also recommend AFMS to explore new avenues for providing medical related services during pandemic like situation.

Training and Medical Research in AFMS

32. The Committee note that AFMS is the apex premier medical institution which provides undergraduate, postgraduate, and super specialization training, as well as paramedical training. The Committee have been informed that command hospitals, the Army Hospital, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, INHS Asvini, and base hospital Delhi also provide postgraduate and paramedical training. The Committee have further been informed that the AFMS has a nursing college and a dental wing. The Military Nursing is an all-women service providing training in several hospitals, with an intake of 220 per year and various postgraduate specialty nursing courses. The Committee have also been apprised that the AFMS collaborates with several national bodies, including the AIIMS, Department of Biotechnology, IITs, ICMR, DoPT Government of India, and MoHFW for research and training. Expressing their satisfaction over the training and research programme provided to medical personnel by AFMS, the Committee recommend that the AFMS should keep its training and research curriculum up to date with the aim of providing medical facilities armed force personnel at the time of traditional as well as modern warfare. It may be emphasised here that AFMS should keep abreast with the new and modern courses not only from the viewpoint of diagnostic doctors but also in the field of pharmacy related developments which are essential for modern medical care.

Achievement of AFMS

33. The achievements of the AFMS is yet another success story which need special mention. The Committee are happy to note that the achievements of the AFMS include the establishment of the Artificial Limb Centre in Pune, a state-of-the-art institution providing prosthetics for amputee soldiers who won seven medals during the Para Asian Games 2023 held in China. The Committee have been informed that the Armed Forces Central for Computational Medicine, inaugurated by the Hon. President of India on 1st December, 2023, focuses on research in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data sciences. The Committee have also been informed that the Tele MANAS has been established for mental health assistance across States for the armed forces, in collaboration with NIMHANS Bangalore and IIIT Bangalore. The Committee further note that Genetic research in the AFMS has advanced, with next-generation genetic sequencing established at the Army Hospital Research and Referral and the Armed Forces Medical College. The nation's only licensed facility for frozen RBCs is located at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre in Delhi, which can provide blood with a shelf life of up to five years. The Committee feel that such facilities will go a long way in catering to the needs of the Armed Forces personnel.

The Committee are also happy to note that the AFMS has also provided humanitarian aid and assistance during the recent disasters, such as the Wayanad floods. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by DGAFMS towards their remarkable achievements and expect that their innovations in medical science would continue unabated in future.

NEW DELHI;
12 March, 2025

21 Phalguna, 1946 (*Saka*)

RADHA MOHAN SINGH,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Defence.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

Minutes of the Seventh Sitting of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 17th February, 2025 from 1100 hrs. to 1700 hrs. in Committee Room `D`, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3. Captain Viriato Fernandes
4. Shri Rahul Gandhi
5. Shri Mohammad Haneefa
6. Ms. S. Jothimani
7. Shri Lumba Ram
8. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
9. Shri Jagadish Shettar
10. Shri Virendra Singh
11. Shri Kesineni Sivanath
12. Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Naresh Bansal
14. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
15. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
16. Shri Muzibulla Khan
17. Shri Praful Patel

18. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
19. Shri Sanjay Singh
20. Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma— *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Tirthankar Das — *Director*
3. Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen --- *Deputy Secretary*

LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Defence

Capital Outlay on Defence Services

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | General Anil Chauhan | CDS & Secretary,DMA |
| 2. | Rajesh Kumar Singh | Defence Secretary |
| 3. | Sanjeev Kumar | Secretary (DP) |
| 4. | Dr. S V Kamat | Secretary (DDR&D) |
| 5. | Dr. Niten Chandra | Secretary (ESW) |
| 6. | Sugata Ghosh Dastidar | FA(DS) |
| 7. | Air Mshl SP Dharkar | VCAS |
| 8. | Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan | VCNS |
| 9. | Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani | VCOAS |
| 10. | Lt Gen JP Mathew | CISC |
| 11. | Lt Gen Pratik Sharma | DCOAS (Strat) |
| 12. | Samir Kumar Sinha | AS & DG(Acq) |
| 13. | Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar | DG FP |
| 14. | Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla | AS, DoD |
| 15. | Vice Admiral Atul Anand | AS, DMA |
| 16. | Rajesh Sharma | Addl. FA(RS) & JS |
| 17. | Maj Gen G S Choudhry | JS(Army & TA)/ DMA |
| 18. | Manish Tripathi | JS(Parliament) |
| 19. | Subhash Kumar | Director (Budget) |

Procurement Policy & Defence Planning

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
3.	Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
4.	Dr. S V Kamat	Secretary (DDR&D)
5.	Dr. Niten Chandra	Secretary (ESW)
6.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
7.	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	DCIDS(PP&FD)
8.	Samir Kumar Sinha,	AS & DG(Acq)
9.	Siddhartha Singh Longjam	AS & FA(Acq)
10.	Dr. Ajay Kumar	JS & AM (LS)
11.	Dharmendra Kumar Singh	JS & AM (Air)
12.	Dinesh Kumar	JS & AM(MS)
13.	AVM GK Mohan	ADG Acq Tech (Air)
14.	Maj Gen Tarun Agrawal	ADG Acq Tech (Army)
15.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
16.	Sanjay Kumar	Addl. FA(SK) & JS
17.	Amit Satija	JS(DIP)/DDP
18.	Manish Tripathi	JS(Parliament)
19.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Indian Army

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan,	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	Addl. Secy., DMA
4.	Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani	VCOAS
5.	Lt Gen Pratik Sharma	DCOAS (Strat)
6.	Lt Gen Rahul R Singh	DCOAS (CD&S)
7.	Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar	DGFP
8.	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik	AG
9.	Lt Gen VMB Krishnan	QMG

10.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
11.	Maj Gen Sandeep Narang	ADG Proc(B)
12.	Maj Gen GS Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)/ DMA
13.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
14.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Indian Air Force

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan,	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	Addl. Secy., DMA
4.	Air Mshl SP Dharkar	VCAS
5.	Air Mshl Tejinder Singh	DCAS
6.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla	Addl. Secy., DoD
7.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air), DMA
8.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
9.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Indian Navy

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	VCNS
4.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	Addl. Secy., DMA
5.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	Addl. Secy., DoD
6.	Rear Admiral Vikram Menon	JS (Navy)
7.	Rear Admiral Alok Ananda	ACNS (P&P)
8.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
9.	Subhash Kumar	Director(Budget)

Joint Staff

1.	Gen. Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary (DMA)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)

3.	Lt Gen JP Mathew	CISC
4.	V Adm Sanjay Vatsayan	DCIDS (PP&FD)
5.	Rear Admiral Puruvir Das	ACIDS (T&I)
6.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	Addl. Secy., DoD
7.	AVM Manish V Patel	ACIDS(FP & Adm)
8.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
9.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Indian Coast Guard

1.	S Paramesh	DG ICG
2.	Dipti Mohil Chawla	Addl. Secy., DoD
3.	Pawan Kumar Sharma	JS(Coast Guard)
4.	ADG AP Badola	ADG CG
5.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
6.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Directorate General of Defence Estate

1.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla,	Addl. Secy., DoD
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar,	FA(DS)
3.	Meena Balimane Sharma	SADG
4.	Valeti Premchand	Addl. DG
5.	Nigar Fatima	Addl. DG
6.	Sonam Yangdol	Addl. DG
7.	Vibha Sharma	Addl. DG
8.	Shreyas M Patel	DDG
9.	Rakesh Mittal	JS(Lands & Works)
10.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
11.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Border Roads Organization

1.	Samir Kumar Sinha	AS & DG(Acq)
2.	Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD

3.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
4.	Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan	DGBR
5.	Rakesh Mittal	JS(BR)
6.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
7.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them of the agenda for the Sitting *i.e.* oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the Defence Secretary and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) along with, the representatives of the Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate on the subjects 'General Defence Budget, Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (Civil), Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning, Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Coast Guard Organisation (CGO), Directorate General Defence Estate (DGDE) and Border Roads Organization (BRO)' in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26.

4. Subsequently, drawing attention to the Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representative of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

5. Thereafter, the Defence Secretary initiated the discussion by giving an overview of Defence Services Estimates and other Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2025-26. The highlights of the brief given by the Defence Secretary are as under:

- (i) The total outlay for Ministry of Defence is Rs 6,90,710.27 crore which is approx 13.45 percent of Budgetary Estimates of the country;
- (ii) Out of total allocation, Rs. 4,19,731.30 crore has been allotted for Defence Services Estimates, Rs. 28,682.97 crore for MoD (Civil) and Rs. 1,60,795.00 crore for Defence pensions;
- (iii) Seventy-five percent of Defence Modernization budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in FY 2025-26; and
- (iv) Out of total allocation for Ministry of Defence for the financial year 2025-26 is Rs. 6.81 lakh crore, out of which Rs. 4.92 lakh crore, i.e 72 %, is allocated for the defence forces;

6. Then, a Power Point Presentation on **General Defence Budget** was made before the Committee. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

- (i) The total Defence Budget for 2024-25 i.e. BE Rs. 6,90,710.27 crore is an increase of 4.65 percent in Defence Budget in comparison to BE 2024-25;
- (ii) Defence Service Estimates which is almost seventy-three percent of the total Defence Budget;
- (iii) Enhancement in Non-salary revenue outlays allocation for the Defence Services in BE 2025-26 in comparison to BE 2024-25;
- (iv) Increase in revenue and capital budget as compared to previous year allocation;
- (v) Total allocation for revenue expenditure for the Defence Forces is Rs.3.12 lakh crore, which is 10.24 per cent and 4.88 per cent higher than the BE and the RE of the current financial year 2024-25.;
- (vi) Rs. 28,682 crore (4.21 %) is allocated (civil) budget, out of the total Rs. 4.92 lakh crore, Rs. 3.12 lakh crore is for the revenue expenditure, and Rs. 1.8 lakh crore is for the capital expenditure for the financial year 2025-26;
- (vii) total defence budget is 13.45 per cent of the total expenditure of the Government of India which is at Rs. 50.65 lakh crore, 9.53 per cent higher than the budget estimate of the 2024-25;
- (viii) 30 per cent of the expenditure is on the salary and allowances, 28 per cent on the capital head, 24 per cent on the defence pensions and 18 per cent on non-salary expenditure;
- (ix) The revenue expenditure of MOD is 12.39 per cent of the Government of India revenue expenditure which is at Rs. 39.44 lakh and capital expenditure of MOD is 17.16 per cent of the Government of India capital expenditure which is at Rs. 11.21 lakh crore.;
- (x) Capital Budget has been increased by Rs. 66,266 Cr (58.26%) in the 1st 5 years which showed a growth rate of 9.62 % Compounded Annual Growth Rate in the last 5 Years;
- (xi) Budget allocation for modern warfare to equip Armed Forces;
- (xii) Modernisation of defence equipments;
- (xiii) Quantity of defence equipments exported by DPSUs and Private Sector;
- (xiv) Reasons for emergency procurement of defence equipments;
- (xv) Inclusion of all indigenized products in Srijan portal
- (xviii) Increase in Defence allocation to meet actual requirement keeping in view current security scenario;
- (xix) Planning for upgradation and modernisation of conventional arms;
- (xx) Strategy for achieving complete indigenization and self-reliance in Defence sector;

- (xxi) Comparison with neighboring countries regarding expenditure on equipments and development of infrastructure.

7. The representatives of the Ministry of Defence then gave a Power Point Presentation on **Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning** which was followed by discussion on a wider gamut of issues encompassing the following:

- (i) Defence Planning to cater current and further modernisation needs of the Armed Forces in terms of platforms, equipment, ammunitions, infrastructure and manpower;
- (ii) Allocation under capital head has been gone up from 1.72 Lakh Crore in FY 2024-25 to 1.8 Lakh crore in FY 2025-26, an increase in 4.65%;
- (iii) Capital allocation budget is also termed as modernisation budget of the armed forces and issued for acquisition of military equipment;
- (iv) 75% (Rs. 1,48,722 crore) of Capital Acquisition Budget has been earmarked for domestic industries;
- (iv) The overall increase in capital outlay of 4.65 per cent in BE of 2025-26 over BE of 2024-25 and 12.85 per cent over RE of 2024-25;
- (v) Capital outlay on defence services in FY 2025-26 is 1.80 Lakhs crores, has been increased by 58% in the last 5 years;
- (vi) Mission Atmanirbharta and Earmarking of Fund for Domestic Industries.
- (vii) Growth in Defence Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Budget from FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26;
- (viii) Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020 for Defence Procurement Policy has been revised nine times during 2002-2020;
- (ix) Defence procurements carried out as per Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)- 2020;
- (x) Fundamental Philosophy for acquisition process;
- (xi) Defence Acquisition Policy which aims to ensure timely procurement of defence equipment to meet the operational requirements;
- (xii) Priority of procurement of defence equipments;

- (xiii) Basic categories for classification of acquisition process i.e. pre-AoN and Post-AoN;
- (xiv) Three pillars of Atmanirbharta i.e. Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India and ease of doing business;
- (xv) Push for domestic defence ecosystem in FY 2025-26;
- (xvi) Allocation of 75% of Modernisation Defence budget in FY 2025-26.
- (xvii) Aero India 2025.
- (xviii) Visibility of Capability Development Plan to Indian Defence Cosystem.
- (xix) Indigenization of various weapons and platforms including missiles, submarines, LCA, etc.;
- (xx) Promotion of 'Make in India' aspects in domestic production ;
- (xxi) Transparency in the defence acquisition process;
- (xxii) Ensuring level playing field between the DPSUs and the Private Players;
- (xxiii) Parity in securities and payment terms between DPSUs and industry.
- (xxiv) Recent initiative in DAP;
- (xxv) Recent Initiatives in Indigenous Content (IC) for Material, Components and Software for Defence Procurement .
- (xxvi) Development of domestic defence ecosystem through enhanced avenues and increase vendor base.
- (xxvii) Ensuring Level Playing field for private defence industry.
- (xxviii) Reduction of Timelines for Defence Procurement.

***(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives
of Department of Military Affairs and the Army came in)***

8. The Chief of Defence Staff gave an overview of the working of the three forces following which a Power Point presentation on the Army was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

- (i) Maintaining of territorial Integrity by Army;
- (ii) Security situation in border areas of the country;
- (iii) Strengthening of Border Area Development programme in border areas by army;
- (iv) Extension of Year of Transformation initiatives;
into a Decade of Transformation from 2023 to 2032;
- (v) Logistic operations in High Altitude Areas;
- (vi) Infrastructure development in northern and western borders;

- (vii) Induction of state-of-the art weapon system and platforms;
- (viii) 6G initiatives to the latest National Quantum Mission;
- (ix) Training of Army with friendly foreign countries;
- (x) Contribution of Army in Military Diplomacy;
- (xi) Role of women officers in Army;
- (xii) Contribution of Army in management of natural disasters and calamities relief;
- (xiii) Indian Army AI Incubation Centre has been started;
- (xiv) Modernization through induction of indigenous weapons and platforms;
- (xviii) Schemes to enhance security infrastructure, surveillance, research and development and fighting abilities of Army;
- (xix) Transform Indian Army into an Atmanirbhar Future Ready Force;
- (xx) Project NAMAN has been started by Indian Army;
- (xxi) Mission Olympics for 2036;
- (xxii) Funds for Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme(ECHS);
- (xxiii) AGNIPATH Scheme has been started;
- (xxiv) Participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations by March, 2025;
- (xxv) Training of 17 Lakh National Cadet Corps cadets including Six lakh girls every year;
- (xxvi) Budgetary allocation to Army;
- (xv) Contribution in sports by Army;
- (xvi) Role of Army towards humanitarian assistance and speedy relief during calamities;
- (xvii) Medical assistance and health care of veterans;

***(The officials of Army then withdrew
and officials of Air Force came in)***

9. Thereafter, a Power Point presentation on the Air Force was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

- (i) Integrated Air Command and Control System;
- (ii) Anti Piracy Joint Maritime operation
- (iii) Propelling India to become an aerospace power
- (iv) Air Defence: Surface to air guided weapon;
- (v) Air Exercises;
- (vi) Joint Air-Ground –Sea exercises;

- (vii) Promoting AGNIPATH Scheme;
- (viii) Reduction in carbon emission;
- (ix) Promoting growth in civil aviation;
- (x) Promoting service in cyber and CRYPTO;
- (xi) Increasing induction of women in IAF as Empowerment of Women;
- (xii) Enabling operations through technology infusion;
- (xiii) Upgradation of Fighter Aircrafts upto 4th Generation capability;
- (xiv) Indigenous upgradation of Su-30MKI;
- (xv) Shortage of authorized squadrons strength;
- (xvi) Study to analyze the major reasons for the delay of LCA;
- (xvii) Joint air-ground-sea exercises;
- (xviii) Promoting and commitment for Atmanirbharta in Air Force;
- (xix) Role of Air Force towards human assistance and disaster relief operations;
- (xx) Decline in accident rates in Air Force;
- (xxi) Increase in Budget Estimate (BE) for the year 2025-26 as compared to the previous year 2024-25.

***(The officials of Air Force then withdrew
and officials of Navy came in)***

10. Consequently, a power point presentation on the Navy was also made before the Committee following which deliberations on the following issues were held:

- (i) More allocation in Budget Estimates, Capital Budget and Revenue Budget of 2025-26 in comparison to Budget Estimates, Capital Budget and Revenue Budget of 2024-25;
- (ii) Maritime threats and challenges from traditional and non traditional sources;
- (iii) Maritime security operations by Navy;
- (iv) Area of operations of Navy to Africa and Australia continents;
- (v) Bilateral and Multilateral exercises with friends by foreign countries;
- (vi) Indian Ocean Region (IOR) maritime information hub linkages with 25 national and 50 multinational centres;
- (vii) Role of Navy in Multi-National contracts;
- (viii) Projection of growth of the number of ships and submarines;
- (ix) Anti-piracy operations by Navy;
- (x) Anti-Narcotics Operations by Navy;

- (xi) HADR/SAR operations by Navy;
- (xii) Promoting Coastal Security;
- (xiii) Role of women officers in Navy;
- (xiv) Promotion of Atmanirbharta through various projects;

***(The officials of Navy then withdrew
and officials of Joint Staff came in)***

11. Following the discussion on the Navy, a power point presentation on Joint Staff was made. Members raised various queries related to the following:

- (i) Promoting jointness and integration of Armed Forces;
- (ii) Formulation of policy on Joint Capabilities, Training and Functional aspects;
- (iii) Financial planning and oversight of joint staff organizations;
- (iv) Defence Crisis Management Group for coordination of Armed Forces during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations;
- (v) Coordination of strategic defence intelligence;
- (vi) Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP) and indigenization;

***(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of the
Ministry of Defence and Indian Coast Guard came in)***

12. After a brief introduction of the officials of Indian Coast Guard, a Power Point Presentation on the working of Indian Coast Guard was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

- (i) More allocation in BE 2025-26 as compared to BE 2024-25;
- (ii) Safety and protection of artificial islands and offshore oil terminals;
- (iii) Protection of fishermen including assistance at sea;
- (iv) Preservation and protection of marine environment;
- (v) Prevention and control of marine pollution;
- (vi) Assistance to customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations;
- (vii) Securing life and property at sea;
- (viii) Assistance in collection of scientific data;
- (ix) Enforcement of maritime enactments.

***(The officials of Indian Coast Guard then withdrew
and officials of Directorate General Defence Estates came in)***

13. Followed by brief introduction of the officials of Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), a Power Point Presentation on the working of Defence Estates Organisation was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

- (i) Allocation in BE in FY 2025-26;
- (ii) Provisions relating to Municipal Administration of notified cantonments, land acquisition, post acquisition, land survey, etc.;
- (iii) Duties of cantonment Board *i.e.* sanitation, drains and sewerage, water supply, primary education, health, roads, street lights and survey, etc.;
- (iv) Status of cantonment board schools;
- (v) Infrastructure and facilities in cantonment board hospitals;
- (vi) Environment and waste management works;
- (vii) Skill development programmes and centres;
- (viii) Industrial training institutes in cantonment Board;
- (ix) Provision of eChhawani-Digital portal for online municipal services;
- (x) Bhoomi Raksha IT module was started in 2022;
- (xi) New initiatives *i.e.* polythene Kachra Bank and E-Waste Drives/Bank
- (xii) Proposal from the State Government for provision of Defence Land;
- (xiii) Issues such as access to roads etc. faced by general public in Cantonment areas and efforts for resolution of these issues;
- (xiv) Enforcement of building laws in cantonment area;
- (xv) Removal of encroachment on the Defence land in the cantonment area;
- (xvi) Policy regarding handing over of Defence institutions to civil municipal bodies adjoining the cantonment areas;

***(The representatives of Directorate General Defence Estates
withdrew and representatives of Border Roads Organization came in)***

14. After a Brief introduction of the officials of Border Roads Organization (BRO), a Power Point presentation on Border Roads Organization was made. The deliberations were held on the subject on following points:

- (i) Budgetary figures for BRO for 2025-26;
- (ii) Role of BRO during the peace and in war periods;
- (iii) Involvement of Government Agencies like NHAI, CPWD, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways by BRO;
- (iv) Construction of roads in Ladakh;

- (v) Shortage of manpowers particularly engineers in BRO;
 - (vi) Challenging terrain, unfavourable climate and difficult security situation faced by BRO;
 - (vii) Construction of Indo-China Road under India-China Border Roads(ICBR);
 - (viii) Initiation of Engineering Procurement and Construction to boost efficiency; and
 - (ix) Strategic projects being executed in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Mandi, Manali, Pithauragarh Sikkim, West Bengal, Meghalaya;
15. The Chairperson, then thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information (which was not readily available) to the Secretariat expeditiously.
16. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

**Minutes of the Eighth Sitting of the Standing Committee on
Defence (2024-25)**

**The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18th February, 2025 from 1100 hrs. to 1740
hrs. in Committee Room `D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3. Shri Captain Viriato Fernandes
4. Shri Mohamad Haneefa
5. Shri S. Jagathratchakan
6. Ms Jothimani
7. Shri Ravindra Shukla alias Ravi Kishan
8. Shri Shashank Mani
9. Shri Lumba Ram
10. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
11. Shri Jagadish Shettar
12. Shri Virendra Singh
13. Shri Kesineni Sivanath
14. Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Naresh Bansal
16. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
17. Shri Muzibulla Khan

18. Shri Sanjay Singh
19. Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma | — | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Tirthankar Das | — | Director |
| 3. Shri Tenzin Gyaltsen | --- | Deputy Secretary |

LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Defence

Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	DiptiMohil Chawla	AS, DoD
4.	Rajeev Prakash	JS(NS)
5.	ShalabhTyagi	JS(P&C)
6.	Amit Satija	JS(DIP)
7.	Dr. GarimaBhagat	JS(LS)
8.	Dr. DK Sunil	CMD, HAL
9.	Manoj Jain	CMD, BEL
10.	Cmde A Madhavarao	CMD, BDL
11.	Shantanu Roy	CMD, BEML
12.	N GowriSankara Rao	MIDHANI

13.	Cmde PR Hari	CMD, GRSE
14.	Sanjeev Singhal	CMD, MDL
15.	Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay	CMD, GSL
16.	Cmde Hemant Khatri	CMD, HSL
17.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl FA (RS) & JS
18.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services)- (New DPSUS)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	DiptiMohil Chawla	AS, DoD
4.	GarimaBhagat	JS(LS)
5.	Sanjeev Gupta	DGO(C&S)
6.	SunitaMansukhani	DDG(Budget)
7.	Sanjay Mehrishi	DDG(ND CD)
8.	Rakesh Ojha	Director (Operations), MIL
9.	Sanjay Dwivedi	CMD, AVANI
10.	AK Maurya	Dir.(Ops) & CMD (Addl Charge), AWEIL
11.	Dr. SK Saxena	Dir(Fin) & CMD(Addl Charge), TCL
12.	MC Balasubramaniam	CMD, GIL
13.	Rakesh Singh Lal	Dir(Fin.), YIL
14.	TusharTripathi	CMD, IOL
15.	BirendraPratap	DDG(ND CD-I)
16.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl FA (RS) & JS

17. Subhash Kumar Director (Budget)

**Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)& Directorate General of
Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA)**

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
2.	Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
3.	N Manoharan	DG, DGQA
4.	S.K. Kapoor	ADG, HQ DGAQA
5.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
6.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Dr. SV Kamat	Secretary, DDR&D
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	DiptiMohil Chawla	AS, DoD
4.	Mangal Lal Chand	DS&DG(TM)
5.	U. JeyaSanthi	OS & DG(HR)
6.	Dr. Chandrika Kaushik	OS & DG(PC&SI)
7.	Dr. Manu Korulla	OS & DG(R&M)

8.	Sunil Sharma	OS & Director, DPARO&M
9.	Dr. SumitGoswami	Sc 'G' & Director, P&C
10.	Vedveer Arya	Addl FA (VA) & JS
11.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
12.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Dr.Niten Chandra	Secretary, ESW
2.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
3.	Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
4.	MayankTewari	JS(ESW)
5.	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik	AG
6.	V Adm Sanjay Bhalla	COP
7.	AVM Updesh Sharma	ACAS(Accts & AV)
8.	Dr. Mayank Sharma	Special CGDA
9.	Maj Gen Manoj Natarajan	MD, ECHS
10.	Maj Gen SBK Singh	DG(R)
11.	Lt Gen Ulhas Kirbekar	DGFP
12.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
13.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

Directorate General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
2.	Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
3.	Surg VAdm Arti Sarin	DGAFMS
4.	Maj Gen Manas Chatterjee	Addl. DGAFMS
5.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
6.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

S. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Smt./Mr./Ms.)	Designation
1.	Sugata Ghosh Dastidar	FA(DS)
2.	Dipti Mohil Chawla	AS, DoD
3.	Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh	DG NCC
4.	AVM PVS Narayana	ADG(A)
5.	Pawan Kumar Sharma	JS(Trg.)
6.	Rajesh Sharma	Addl. FA(RS) & JS
7.	Subhash Kumar	Director (Budget)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them of the agenda for the Sitting i.e. oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate upon Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services)-New DPSUs, Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) and National Cadet Corps(NCC) in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26.

4. Later, drawing attention to Direction 55(1) of the Direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representatives of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

5. After formal introduction, the Secretary, Defence Production initiated the discussion by highlighting the works of the department which includes production of defence equipment in country, incorporating the components of indigenization, export of defence products, inclusion of new technologies in defence and creating an ecosystem of defence manufacturing wherein MSMEs, Start-Ups and private sector can participate . The highlights of the brief given by the Secretary are as under:

- (i) Export of defence product till 31.01.2025 is Rs. 18,487 Cr, is expected to cross 23000 Cr. In FY 2025-26:
- (ii) Export of defence products increased up to Rs 21,000 crores in the year 2023-24 from Rs. 686 crores in the 2013-14 ;
- (iii) Substantial steps taken towards 'Make in India' and achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- (iv) A new portal 'SRIJAN' has been launched to promote indigenization by participation of MSMEs and Start ups. On this portal 32,000 defence components were listed for indigenization out of which process of indigenization of 12-13,000 components have been done. It is likely to be increased drastically by 2028-29. Consequently import of such components will be stopped.
- (v) Increase in R&D Budget;

- (vi) ADITI Scheme has been launched to promote Export;
- (vii) Export Promotion Cell (EPC) has been set up to boost Export.
- (viii) Open General Export License (OGEL) scheme has been launched to boost Defence Exports.

6. Thereafter, a Power Point Presentation was made by the representatives of nine Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) viz. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Goa Shipyard Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, BEML Limited and Hindustan Shipyard Limited. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

- (i) Financial Data comprising turnover and profit made by said DPSUs;
- (ii) Status of Order Book Positions of DPSUs;
- (iii) Various measures undertaken to increase export and minimize import;
- (iv) Modernisation activities taken by all DPSUs;
- (v) Measures taken towards indigenization and achieving 'Atma Nirbharta';
- (vi) Initiative taken for technological advancements in light of latest warfare techniques.
- (vii) Optimum focus on investment in research and Development;
- (viii) Share of FDI and FII in DPSUs along with foreign investment by DPSUs; and
- (ix) Utilisation of CSR fund.

(The representatives of the DPSUs then withdrew and representative of Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services) came in.)

7. After introduction of the representative of Directorate of Ordnance (Cord. & Serv.), a brief overview regarding seven new DPSUs was presented by the Secretary. Then representatives of new DPSUs made a Power Point Presentation before the Committee. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

- (i) Types of products being manufactured by these new DPSUs;
- (ii) Financial performance comprising turnover and profit made by these new DPSUs;
- (iii) Status of Order Book Positions;

- (iv) Challenges in transfer and merger of employees;
- (v) Financial Assistance being given by Government to these DPSUs;
- (vi) Diversification in products being manufactured ;
- (vii) Merger of existing seven DPSUs to synchronize their productions;
- (viii) Various initiatives being taken towards technological upgradation;

The Chairperson commended their journey despite several challenges being faced by new DPSUs.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)& Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA came in.)

8. The representatives of the Department gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) Restructuring of DGQA (Director General Quality Assurance);
- (ii) DGQA Role in Induction of New System;
- (iii) Ministry of Defence Schemes for Defence Industries to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat;
- (iv) Defence Export Promotion Schemes;
- (v) Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme;
- (vi) Reforms and Initiatives by DGQA for Ease of Doing Business;
- (vii) DGAQA (Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance) is a Regulatory authority for Quality Assurance & Final Inspection of Military Aviation stores for use by IAF, Army Aviation, Naval Aviation, ICG Aviation, BSF etc;

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) came in.)

9. The representatives of the Department gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) An overview of functions of DRDO;

- (ii) New initiative taken to meet changing requirements in defence sector;
- (iii) Technology Development Fund;
- (iv) Opening of Centre of Excellence for promotion of R&D in academia;
- (v) Initiative to Atma Nirbhar Bharat in defence technologies and systems;
- (vi) Induction of women scientists;
- (vii) Upgradation in drone detection and anti missile technology;
- (viii) Progress in landmine detection;
- (ix) Investment in R&D;
- (x) Monitoring of ongoing projects for timely delivery; and
- (xi) Vacancy and attrition rates in DRDO.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)) came in.

10. The representatives of the Department gave an overview of the the organization with the help of Power Point presentation. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) Armed Forces Veterans (Ex-Servicemen) including pensioners;
- (ii) Armed Forces Veterans (Ex-Servicemen) Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) along with services provided by the Poly clinics;
- (iii) Initiatives undertaken for the welfare schemes of ESM through Directorate General of Resettlement;
- (iv) Key Functions of Kendriya Sanik Boards;
- (ix) Status and beneficiaries of Marriage Grants and Children Education Grants;
- (x) Challenges to generate employment for ESM and measures undertaken to resolve them;
- (xi) Measures taken for stress management and mental health of ESM;

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Directorate General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS) came in.)

11. The representatives of the Department gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) Delivery of Comprehensive Medical Care of highest standards during operations as well as peacetime within the country;
- (ii) AFMS provides medical care in both War & Peace;
- (iii) Training and Medical Research in AFMS;
- (iv) Preventive Healthcare in AFMS;
- (v) Collaborative research, training & faculty exchange program through MoUs;
- (vi) Artificial Limb Centre, has been established in Pune;
- (vii) Satellite-based Warship Assistance and Support Tele Helpline (SWASTH) has been established for consultation:
- (xii) 'RUKMANI' a dedicated military communication satellite primarily used by the Indian Navy has been launched;
- (xiii) Artificial Limb Centre has been set up in Pune for providing State-of-the art prostheses for amputee soldiers;
- (xiv) Tele MANAS (Mental health Assistance and Networking Across States cell has been established at AFMC with the assistance of NIMHANS Bangalore and IIIT Bengaluru;
- (xv) Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine (AFCCM) was inaugurated by The Hon'ble President of India, in Dec, 2023 in Pune;
- (xvi) Frozen RBC storage has been established for frozen RBC storage At AFTC, Delhi;
- (xvii) Providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
- (xviii) AFMC was awarded the prestigious President's Colour in 2023;

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Directorate General National Cadet Corps (NCC) came in.)

12. The representatives of the Department gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

- (i) Annual training camps;
- (ii) Adventure Camps;
- (iii) Mountaineering Expeditions;
- (iv) Social Service and Community Development (SSCD) Efforts;
- (v) Women Empowerment;

(vi) Awareness about environmental hazards;

13. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information to the Secretariat expeditiously.

14. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 12th March, 2025 from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in the Committee Room `B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Shri Ranjit Dutta
5. Captain Viriato Fernandes
6. Shri Mohmad Haneefa
7. Ms. Jothimani

8. Shri Lumba Ram

9. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
10. Shri Jagadish Shettar

11. Shri Virendra Singh

12. Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Naresh Bansal
14. Shri N. Chandrasengharan
15. Shri Muzibulla Khan
16. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
17. Shri Sanjay Singh
18. Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tirthankar Das - Director
3. Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them about the agenda for the Sitting. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports:-

- (i) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Directorate General Defence Estates, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand Nos. 19, 20 and 21)';**
- (ii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';**
- (iii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Defence Planning, Procurement Policy and Defence Pensions (Demand Nos. 21 and 22)'; and**
- (iv) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services–New DPSUs), Directorate General of Quality Assurance, Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)'.**

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above reports without any modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament on a date convenient to him.

5. ****Does not pertain to the report****

The Committee then adjourned.*****