

**16**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE  
(2025-26)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18<sup>th</sup> 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)']**

**SIXTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2025 / Agrahayana 1947 (Saka)**

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**(2025-26)**

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*Presented to Lok Sabha on 09.12.2025*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 09.12.2025*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2025 / Agrahayana 1947 (Saka)**

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## **COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2025-26)**

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH**

-

**CHAIRPERSON**

### **Lok Sabha**

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Lumbaram Choudhary
5	Shri Ranjit Dutta
6	Captain Viriato Fernandes
7	Shri Rahul Gandhi
8	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
9	Shri S. Jagathratchakan
10	Ms. S. Jothimani
11	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
12	Shri Shashank Mani
13	Smt. Mahua Moitra
14	Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
15	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
16	Shri Jagadish Shettar
17	Shri Virendra Singh
18	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
19	Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan
20	Com. Selvaraj V.
21	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

### **Rajya Sabha**

22	Shri Naresh Bansal
23	Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
24	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
25	Shri Prem Chand Gupta
26	Shri Kamal Haasan
27	Shri Muzibulla Khan
28	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
29	Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam
30	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
31	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                        |   |                  |
|----|------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt. Juby Amar         | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Ajay Kumar Prasad | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Anjorem Kerketta  | - | Under Secretary  |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2025-26), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Sixteenth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18<sup>th</sup> 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 Eighth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. The Report contained 33 Observations/ Recommendations. The Ministry of Defence furnished Action Taken Replies on all the Observations/Recommendations in June, 2025.

3. The Report was adopted at the Sitting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

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

5. An analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence is given in Appendix II.

**New Delhi;  
04 December, 2025  
13 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)**

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



# **REPORT**

## **CHAPTER – I**

This Report of the Standing Committee on Defence deals with Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of Standing Committee on Defence (18<sup>th</sup> 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)', which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17 March, 2025.

2. The Eighth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee contained 33 observations/recommendations on the following aspects:-

<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Army</b>	
1-2	Budget
3	Percentage Share of Army Budget
4	Budget for Modernization
5	Modernization and Modern Warfare Tactics
6	Indigenization
7	Force level of Army
8	Women empowerment
9	Role of Army during disaster
<b>Air Force</b>	
10-11	Budgetary Provisions
12	Percentage Share of Air Force Budget
13	Budget for Modernization
14	Planning and Procurement
15	Indigenization
16	Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI)
17	Manpower
<b>Indian Navy</b>	
18	Budget
19	Budget for Modernization
20	Indigenisation
21	Operational Preparedness
22	Manpower
<b>Joint Staff</b>	
23	Budget
24	Operationalization of theatre commands
<b>ECHS</b>	
25	Budget
26	Vacancies in ECHS Polyclinics
27	Telemedicine
28	Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empanelled private



	hospitals
29	ECHS in far-flung areas
<b>Directorate General Armed Force Medical Services (DFAFMS)</b>	
30	DGAFMS
31	Role of AFMS in War, Peace and HADR duties
32	Training and Medical Research in AFMS
33	Achievement of AFMS

3. Action Taken Replies have been received from the Government in respect of 33 observations/recommendations contained in the Report. The replies have been examined and categorized as follows:-

**(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II):**

**Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24, 25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33**

**(Total - 33)**

**(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (Chapter III):**

**Para Nos. -NIL-**

**(Total -0)**

**(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV):**

**Para Nos. -NIL-**

**(Total - 0)**

**(iv) Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V):**

**Para Nos. -NIL-**

**(Total - 0)**

4. The Committee desire that the Action Taken Notes in respect of comments contained in Chapter I should be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than six months of the presentation of this report.

5. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the recommendation/observations made in the Eighth Report in the succeeding Paragraphs.

## **A. Budget**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1 )**

#### **6. The Committee had recommended as under:**

“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.”

#### **7. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:**

“The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and it will be ensured that all possible efforts are made for favourable allocation to Army under Revenue Head in the coming years in consultation with MoF.”

#### **8. The Committee note from the action taken reply about the assurance given by the Ministry that all possible efforts will be made for favourable allocation to Army under Revenue Head in the coming years in consultation with Ministry of**

Finance. The Committee observed in the original report that for the financial year 2025-26, the Army had projected for Rs. 2,14,727.72 crore, however, it was allocated Rs. 2,06,200.00 crore, which is Rs. 8527.72 crore less than the projection. The Committee in their original report had also recommended for continuance of favourable allocation under Revenue Head in coming years also as per the projection of the Army. The Committee, therefore, while acknowledging the importance of non-salary expenditure which caters to the crucial expenses such as stores, ration, transportation, fuel etc., essential for regular training and operational preparedness of the Army, would reiterate for favourable allocation during the FY 2025-26 and in future under Revenue Head. Notwithstanding, the upkeeping trend, it must be ensured that variation between demand and allocation is minimised to the extent possible, so as to not affect the operational preparedness and requirements of the Army, due to lack of availability of resources/funds.

Further, the Committee in their original report had observed that out of RE allocation for FY 2024-25 of Rs. 1,98,427.82 crore, only Rs. 1,49,300.75 crore was spent till December, 2024 and Rs. 49,127.07 crore was to be spent in the next three months. Therefore, they had urged for prudent fiscal planning and concerted efforts. The Committee had further desired to be apprised of the final outcome thereon consequent to the end of Financial Year while furnishing the Action Taken Notes. However, the Ministry has not furnished any information in this regard. The Committee may be informed about the same while furnishing Action Taken Statement.

## **B. Indigenisation**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 20)**

9. The Committee had recommended as under:

“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."

10. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

"Indian Navy's modernization programme is centered on *Atmanirbharta*. Currently, 60 of the 61 warships under construction are being built in India, while contract conclusion in respect of 62 more ships and submarines, and 120 Fast Interceptor Craft, to be built in domestic shipyards, is also at advanced stage. Achieving higher indigenous content across weapons, sensors and equipment, that supports the growth of Indian shipbuilding sector, continues to be a key focus area. Ongoing shipbuilding projects are being actively pursued with concerned shipyards for timely fructification. To achieve timely completion of ongoing projects, the production directorate at NHQ are reviewing the progress of these ongoing projects through Warship Oversee Team (WOT) using a structured review mechanism.

2. In the last 10 years, an average of 65% of the total expenditure has been focused towards indigenous procurement. During FY 2023-24, the ratio of 83.91:16.09 between Indian and foreign sources has been achieved."

11. The Committee are pleased to note from the action taken reply that Indian Navy's modernization programme is centered on *Atmanirbharta* and currently, 60 of the 61 warships under construction are being built in India, while contract conclusion in respect of 62 more ships and submarines, and 120 Fast Interceptor Craft, to be built in domestic shipyards, is also at advanced stage. The Committee further note that achieving higher indigenous content across weapons, sensors and equipment, that supports the growth of Indian shipbuilding sector, continues to be a key focus area. The Committee also note that ongoing shipbuilding projects are being actively pursued with concerned shipyards for timely fructification. The Committee appreciate that for achieving timely completion of ongoing projects, the production directorate at NHQ are reviewing the progress of these ongoing projects through Warship Oversee Team (WOT) using a structured review mechanism. At this stage, the Committee hope that ongoing shipbuilding including submarines and interceptor craft projects shall not lag due to shortage of funds and any requirement of additional funds should be raised by Navy at supplementary/revised stage with a view to enable Navy in attaining greater degree of 'Aatmanirbharta'. The Committee also appreciate that during FY 2023-24 indigenous procurement had been 83.91%. The Committee hope that the country

marches ahead in indigenous content in ships design and construction so as to achieve the goal of self-reliance and thereby supporting domestic industrial ecosystem in defence sector.

**C. ECHS in far-flung areas**

**Recommendation (Para No. 29)**

12. The Committee had recommended as under:

“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.”

13. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

“During the year 2024, a total of 23 New Polyclinics have been sanctioned along with upgradation of 50 Polyclinics. An additional contractual manpower of 1357 personnel has also been sanctioned.”

**14. The Committee are pleased to note that during the year 2024, a total of 23 New Polyclinics have been sanctioned and 50 Polyclinics were upgraded. The Committee are happy to note that an additional contractual manpower of 1357 personnel has also been sanctioned.**

**Keeping in mind the increasing number of ESM in every year, the Committee wish to reiterate their earlier recommendation that the requirement of new Polyclinics as also dependency of ESM on Polyclinics may be reviewed from time to time with an objective to open new Polyclinics as also for**

**upgrading/downgrading the existing ones so that medical related problems of ESM would be minimized and requirement of ex-soldiers be taken care of.**

**D. Training and Medical Research in AFMS**

**Recommendation (Para No. 32 )**

15. The Committee had recommended as under:

“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 to 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.”

16. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

“AFMS has signed an MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for collaborative research and training. Under the aegis of this MoU, AFMS officers have registered for Indian Council of Medical Research- Department of Health Research (ICMR-DHR) Young Medical Faculty, PhD program.

2. Two Centres of Advanced Research (CAR), namely, Space Psychology at Institute of Aerospace Medicine and AFMS Biomedical Innovations Validation and Integration Centre at Armed Forces Medical College, have been established under the aegis of ICMR. Regional centre for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) has also been opened in AFMS with ICMR support. ICMR has supported AFMS to be at the forefront of diagnostics and research with establishment of multiple Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) in AFMS institutions.

3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between AFMS and National Institutes of repute like Department of Biotechnology, NIMHANS and IITs etc. These MoUs have helped by making it possible for AFMS researchers to utilize the expertise of these institutes for research in AFMS.”

**17. With respect to the Committee’s recommendation, to keep its training and research programme up to date to facilitate the armed forces personnel at the time**

of traditional as well as modern warfare, the Committee are pleased to note that AFMS has signed an MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for collaborative research and training. Under the aegis of this MoU, AFMS officers have registered for Indian Council of Medical Research- Department of Health Research (ICMR-DHR) Young Medical Faculty, PhD program. Further, the Committee have been apprised that two Centres of Advanced Research (CAR), namely, Space Psychology at Institute of Aerospace Medicine and AFMS Biomedical Innovations Validation and Integration Centre at Armed Forces Medical College, have been established under the aegis of ICMR. The Committee have also been apprised that the Regional centre for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) has also been opened in AFMS with ICMR support. ICMR has supported AFMS to be at the forefront of diagnostics and research with establishment of multiple Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) in AFMS institutions. The Committee further note that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between AFMS and National Institutes of repute like Department of Biotechnology, NIMHANS and IITs etc. and it has helped AFMS researchers to utilize the expertise of these institutes for research in AFMS.

The Committee in their original report had recommended that AFMS should keep abreast with the new and modern courses in the field of pharmacy related developments alongwith diagnostic doctors which are essential for modern medical care. However, the Ministry have not furnished any details in their action taken notes. The Committee, therefore, while acknowledging the role and importance of pharmacy in medical care amongst Armed Forces, reiterate their earlier recommendation that AFMS should keep abreast with the new and modern courses in the field of pharmacy as pharmacy plays a crucial role in supporting and sustaining medical/health care system.

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **ARMY**

##### **Budget**

##### **Recommendation No. 1**

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.

##### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and it will be ensured that all possible efforts are made for favourable allocation to Army under Revenue Head in the coming years in consultation with MoF.



## **Recommendation No. 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. 34,226.95 crore was allocated. The Committee find that upto December 2024, Rs. 22,128.47 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.

## **Reply of the Government**

It may be stated that capital projection and allocation is based on multiple factors, which involves trend of expenditure, past absorption capacity of the Services, projections made by the Services, inter-Ministry priorities, Committed Liabilities to be fulfilled, critical requirements, New Schemes in pipeline etc. So to commit to a specific trend is not feasible. Having said that, this Ministry will make every possible effort to ensure that the inflationary trends are taken care of and Capital Budget in future is increased so that induction of state-of-the-art weapon systems, development of other infrastructure at the borders are not compromised.

2. It may also be mentioned that India's expenditure on Defence is the largest amongst the Central Ministries as a percentage of GDP and it has been growing consistently. However, the Defence Expenditure may not be fixed in proportion to the increase in defence spending of our neighbours as while allocating budget to the Ministries multiple factors are taken into consideration by Ministry of Finance(MoF) like inter-Ministry priorities, past absorption capacity, pace of expenditure in the current Financial Year, overall resource envelope available with MoF, etc.

3. Further, the committee may be apprised that Army had been allocated Rs. 40,388.44 Crore at MA 2024-25 stage (i.e. an increase of Rs. 6,161.48 Crore over RE 2024-25) which has been fully utilized. It is further submitted that in spite of the factors as mentioned above which affects the budgetary allocation, requisite fund will be provided under Capital Head for capability development, acquisition of state-of-the-art weapon systems, development of infrastructure at the borders etc. to ward off any adversaries in case of any hostility.

## **Percentage Share of Army Budget**

### **Recommendation No.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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Defence takes the recommendation of the Committee into consideration and assures the committee that, if need be, this Ministry will seek additional funds at Supplementary, RE or MA stage to maintain an optimum level of combat preparedness.

## **Budget for Modernization**

### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

In BE 2025-26, Army has been allocated Rs. 26,100.00 Crore (i.e. 100% of the projected amount) under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Segment. Further, the Committee may be assured that all efforts will be made to obtain additional funds projected, if any, by Army at Supplementary/RE/MA stage under Capital Head so that modernization of Army does not suffer.

### **Modernisation and Modern Warfare Tactics**

#### **Recommendation No.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 Start-up 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Modernisation of Indian Army is progressed as part of a deliberate and comprehensive 'Integrated Capability Development Plan' ensuring induction of modern military platforms as well as rapid embracement of new technologies to ensure 24x7 operational readiness in defence of the country. Indian Army has identified 16 niche technology clusters, comprising 33 technologies for induction into Service. All these

technologies are being addressed by 14 Category 'A' establishments as Centers of Excellence.

3. As part of the modernisation efforts, latest equipment has been inducted. Several key schemes are at advanced stages of procurement to further enhance the combat edge of the Indian Army. Capability is also being enhanced through technological infusion and induction of New Generation Equipment (NGE) through multiple means of procurement. A total of 138 schemes worth approximate Rs. 16,920 Crores have been contracted under Emergency Procurement (EP) –IV. In addition, EP for operational capability enhancement of troops deployed in CI/CT operations is also under progress. A total of 16 schemes worth approximate Rs. 2000 Crores are being progressed.

### **Indigenization**

#### **Recommendation No. 06:**

The Committee find from the replies submitted by the Ministry that during the last five financial years (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 Atmanirbharta. 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 Atmanirbharta.

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'.

### **Reply of the Government**

Government has notified a "Policy for indigenisation of components and spares used in Defence Platforms" in March 2019 with the objective to create an industry ecosystem which is able to indigenise the imported components (including alloys & special materials) and sub-assemblies for defence equipment and platform manufactured in India and to leverage the said capability to create components export market.

(a) Pursuant to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' announcement, the Department of Defence Production (DDP) under Ministry of Defence/ Government of India has developed a portal named 'SRIJAN' ([srijandefence.gov.in](http://srijandefence.gov.in)) in Aug 2020. SRIJAN portal is a Common Indigenisation Portal for all Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and the Armed Forces (SHQs). It gives access to the Indian Manufacturing Industry of the items which have been imported in the past or are likely to be imported in the future by DPSUs/SHQs. As on 31.03.2025, more than 39000 items are available for Public View on SRIJAN portal out of which more than 14000 items have been indigenised. Similarly, Five PILs comprising of 509 Defence systems/platforms/ equipment are also notified by Department of Military Affairs out of which 38 items have been indigenised.

(b) Five Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs) have been notified by Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry. These five lists consist of total 5012 items. Till 31.03.2025, 3053 items have been indigenised. The breakup of these items is as under-

(i) The 1<sup>st</sup> PIL was notified on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. It consists of 2851 major Line Replacement Units / Sub-systems/Components which are to be indigenised within the timelines of December, 2022 to December, 2024. For 2851 items to be indigenised, 2815 items have been indigenised and balance items are under process.

(ii) The 2<sup>nd</sup> PIL was notified on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. It consists of 107 major Line Replacement Units / Sub-systems/Components which are to be indigenised within the timelines of December, 2022 to December, 2028. For 107 items to be indigenised, 38 items have been indigenised and balance items are under process.

(iii) The 3<sup>rd</sup> PIL was notified on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. It consists of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Components with the indigenisation timelines of December, 2023 to December, 2028. For 780 items to be indigenised, 176 items have been indigenised and balance items are under process.

(iv) The 4<sup>th</sup> PIL was notified on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. It consists of 928 strategically important Line Replacement Units(LRUs) / Sub-systems / Components with the indigenisation timelines of December, 2023 to December, 2029. For 928 items to be indigenised, 11 items have been indigenised and balance items are under process.

(iv) The 5<sup>th</sup> PIL was notified on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. It consists of 346 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs) / Sub-systems / Assemblies / Spares & Components/ Raw materials with the indigenisation timelines of December, 2024 to December, 2029. For 346 items to be indigenised, 13 items have been indigenised and balance items are under process.

### **Force level of Army**

#### **Recommendation No. 07:**

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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Appreciation expressed by the Hon'ble Committee is humbly and thankfully acknowledged.

## **Women empowerment**

### **Recommendation No. 08**

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 girl 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 be 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Observations of Hon'ble Committee are noted.

## **Role of Army during disaster**

### **Recommendation No. 09:**

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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Observation of Hon'ble Committee are thankfully acknowledged.

## **AIR FORCE**

### **Budgetary Provisions**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The Committee may be assured that all efforts will be made to obtain additional funds projected by Air Force, if any, at Supplementary/RE/MA stage under Revenue Head. Further, the allocated funds will be optimally utilized towards operational activities and if required, the schemes will be reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired to deal with any contingency situation.

#### **Recommendation No. 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 growth 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The Committee is assured that the allocated funds will be optimally and judiciously utilized for modernization of Air Force. And, if needed, all efforts will be made to obtain



additional funds projected by Air Force at Supplementary/RE/MA stage under Capital Head.

### **Percentage Share of Air Force Budget**

#### **Recommendation No.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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The Committee may be apprised that DSE (including both Revenue and Capital Grants) comprises funds allocated to the Services/ Departments based on their trend of expenditure, past absorption capacity, projections made, inter-Ministry priorities, Committed Liabilities to be fulfilled, critical requirements etc. Annual allocation for a financial year in respect of a particular service is made based on overall assessment considering above factors.

2. Further, it may be highlighted that Air Force has been allocated 100% of its projected amount and if required, all possible efforts will be made to seek additional funds at RE/Supplementary/MA stage.

### **Budget for Modernization**

#### **Recommendation No. 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. 26,973.72 crore has been incurred in Financial Year 2024-25 till December, 2024. In BE 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 59,646.83 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

IAF Capital Acquisition Budget (BE) for FY 2024-25 was Rs. 54,569.91 Crore, the same was revised to Rs. 47,920.47 Crore at MA stage, which was fully utilised by IAF.

Capital Acquisition Budget of Rs. 59,646.83 Crore as per BE 2025-26 will be gainfully utilised for modernisation and technological upgradation of IAF.

### **Planning and Procurement**

#### **Recommendation No. 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 equipment and aircrafts.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Defence has finalized the draft Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP) 2025-27 (Two year Roll on Plan), based on the capability development imperatives as well as Other Capital Procurement Procedure (OCP) cases for sustenance and upgrade requirements. MoD is progressing the cases for accord of Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) on Priority. The medium and long term perspective plans are continuously updated and also factored in during formulation of the two year Roll on Plan. This apart, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in its meeting held on 20.03.2025 has approved certain steps to reduce timelines taken at different stages of Capital Acquisition process.

### **Indigenization**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

## **Reply of the Government**

**-Classified-**

### **Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI)**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

## **Reply of the Government**

**-Classified-**

### **Manpower**

#### **Recommendation No. 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 country 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

**-Classified-**

### **NAVY**

#### **Budget**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

In BE 2025-26, Navy has been allocated Rs. 1,03,502.62 Crore (i.e. 97.59% of the projected amount of Rs. 1,06,060.04 Crore) under both Revenue and Capital Heads and Rs. 65,352.82 Crore (i.e. 100% of the projection made) under Capital Head. Further, the Committee is assured that all efforts will be made to obtain additional funds, if needed, at Supplementary/RE/MA stage under both Revenue and Capital Heads.

## **Budget for Modernization**

### **Recommendation No. 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 armaments.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and every possible effort will be made to optimally utilize the funds allocated to Navy towards modernization and technological upgradation in their platforms, infrastructure and armaments.

## **Indigenisation**

### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Indian Navy's modernization programme is centered on *Atmanirbharta*. Currently, 60 of the 61 warships under construction are being built in India, while contract conclusion in respect of 62 more ships and submarines, and 120 Fast Interceptor Craft, to be built in domestic shipyards, is also at advanced stage. Achieving higher indigenous content across weapons, sensors and equipment, that supports the growth of Indian shipbuilding sector, continues to be a key focus area. Ongoing shipbuilding projects are being actively pursued with concerned shipyards for timely fructification. To achieve timely completion of ongoing projects, the production directorate at NHQ are reviewing the progress of these ongoing projects through Warship Oversee Team (WOT) using a structured review mechanism.

3. In the last 10 years, an average of 65% of the total expenditure has been focused towards indigenous procurement. During FY 2023-24, the ratio of 83.91:16.09 between Indian and foreign sources has been achieved.

### **Operational Preparedness**

#### **Recommendation No. 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 Adjourning 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

1. Indian Navy is committed to safeguarding national interests in the maritime domain and strengthen the strategic narrative of 'First Responder' and 'Preferred Security Partner' in the region.

2. Maritime security challenges arise from both traditional and non-traditional threats. While, traditional threats include conventional and non-conventional warfare by potential adversaries, non-traditional threats include Piracy and Armed Robbery, Terrorism at sea/ from sea, Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing, drug smuggling, gun running and human trafficking.

3. Indian Navy in close coordination with all elements of Higher Defence Organisation, sister Services and Ministries dealing with aspects of maritime security and coastal defence, constantly analyses the geopolitical developments, emerging threats/ challenges and reviews its operational preparedness to retain edge over potential adversaries during crisis or conflict at sea. Indian Navy maintains a near continuous surveillance in our maritime areas of interests, through consistent deployment of *IN* assets. Also, capability development by potential adversaries, as well as activities by both state and non-state actors, that threaten our national interests, are closely monitored. Further, coastal defence mechanism is periodically assessed towards necessary refinement.

## **Manpower**

### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. The salient aspects relevant in this regard are enumerated in succeeding paragraphs.

2. The training in Indian Navy is regularly reviewed and updated as per requirements. There is a robust mechanism in place, with details as follows: -

- (a) **Comprehensive Assessment/ Review of Training**. The training in Indian Navy has been tailored to meet the emerging requirements based on feedback/ training gaps, as received from Commands / Units, and newly inducted equipment and systems. A mechanism termed as New Induction Training Committee (NITC) to facilitate early induction of training aids pertaining to equipment/ system inducted/ planned to be inducted, has been setup in the Indian Navy.

- (b) **Revision of Syllabi and Upskilling of Indian Navy Personnel.** The rapidly emerging technologies and threats necessitate Indian Navy to regularly upskill their personnel in niche technology domains such as Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analysis etc. in association with reputed civilian institutes. Accordingly, periodic review of syllabi for various courses being conducted at the training schools of Indian Navy is conducted through policies promulgated by Naval Headquarters/ training directives promulgated by Headquarters, Southern Naval Command.
- (c) In addition to the basic and advanced training, Indian Navy also has been imparting training on future technologies. The following are relevant in this regard:-
- (i) **Training on Niche Technologies.** Training on future technologies such as Electric Propulsion and Medium Voltage (MV), Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics, are also being given due impetus. IITs and other reputed institutes are being engaged for specialised training to equip *IN* personnel with skills and expertise in military decision making with regard to allocation of scarce resources, selection of new equipment and processes, and optimal deployment of given resources to achieve required missions.
  - (ii) **Training on New Induction Equipment.** For newly inducted equipment, reference systems for training establishments are being included as part of the contracts.
- (d) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with industry/ academia towards strengthening industry academia relation, research collaboration, technology development and technical solution, have been concluded with IITs (Kharagpur, Kanpur and Bombay), IISc Bangalore and Indian Maritime University.

## **JOINT STAFF**

### **Budget**

#### **Recommendation No.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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Defence welcomes Committee's appreciation towards the role and responsibilities of HQ IDS (Joint Staff) and assures the Committee that, if need be, this Ministry will seek additional funds at Supplementary, RE or MA stage in order to strengthen the Joint Staff.

### **Operationalization of theatre commands**

#### **Recommendation No. 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, 97 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

**-Classified-**

### **EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)**

#### **Budget**

#### **Recommendation No. 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 2025-26 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 centres, 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

This Ministry acknowledges the recommendation and assures the Committee that every possible effort will be made to ensure 100% utilization of the allocated budget by ECHS.

### **Vacancies in ECHS Polyclinics**

#### **Recommendation No. 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 measures 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

All possible efforts are being made by ECHS for filling up of vacant posts and to ensure quality healthcare to the veterans. Part time employment of doctors is also being carried out where specialist doctors are not available. The additional vacancies sanctioned by the MoD (1357) have already been allocated to the up-graded and newly sanctioned polyclinics and employment of contractual staff as per revised authorization has already been carried out w.e.f. 01 Apr 2025 by respective station Headquarters across the country.

### **Telemedicine**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Pilot project on Tele-medicine has been completed and gaps in the software were identified and resolved. Thereafter, testing of the project was conducted at all Polyclinics in Delhi. Pan India roll-out is being carried out in a gradual manner.

### **Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empanelled private hospitals**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Details with respect to Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empaneled private hospitals given at Para 2 are as follows: -

(i) The numbers of ESM/dependents who visited to the polyclinics combined during the last three years: -

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of footfalls of ESM/Dependents visits to the Polyclinics</b>
(a)	2022	1,53,43,077
(b)	2023	1,68,08,722
(c)	2024	1,81,48,376
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,03,00,175</b>

(ii) The number of ESM/dependents who were treated at the polyclinics combined during the last three years: -

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of footfalls of ESM/Dependents visits to the Polyclinics</b>
(a)	2022	1,27,68,378
(b)	2023	1,26,04,265
(c)	2024	1,50,50,274
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,04,22,917</b>

(iii) The number of ESM who approached all Defence Hospitals combined for treatment of themselves and the dependents during the last three years: -

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of ESM approached to Defence Hospitals for treatment of themselves and dependent</b>
(a)	2022	2,84,600
(b)	2023	7,97,397
(c)	2024	3,29,105
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,11,102</b>

(iv) The number of Ex-Servicemen/dependent who were referred for super specialty treatment in Private Hospitals: -

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of ESM/Dependents referred for Super Specialty Treatment in Private Hospitals</b>
(a)	2022	22,90,099
(b)	2023	34,07,060
(c)	2024	27,68,997
<b>Total</b>		<b>84,66,156</b>

### **ECHS in far-flung areas**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

During the year 2024, a total of 23 New Polyclinics have been sanctioned along with upgradation of 50 Polyclinics. An additional contractual manpower of 1357 personnel has also been sanctioned.

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

### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Defence welcomes Committee's appreciation towards the role and responsibilities of DGAFMS and assures the Committee that this Ministry will make every possible effort to provide adequate grant, or more if required, 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**

### **Recommendation No. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

As per the recommendations of the Committee regarding Armed Forces Medical Services to explore new avenues for providing medical related services during pandemic-like situations, the following is submitted:-

- a) The Directorate General of Medical Services (Army) continuously strives to modernize the Indian Army hospitals in providing best quality of care to its patients. As part of this, a five-year Roll-on plan for modernization & upgradation of hospital infrastructure was formulated, whereby hospitals are being undertaken for modernization in phase wise manner.
- b) The Indian Navy's Medical Services have been diligently working to enhance their preparedness to provide comprehensive Medical care, including the response to pandemic-like situations, ensuring the well-being of its personnel while also supporting the nation's broader healthcare initiatives. In this regard, following is submitted:-
  - (i) Key Naval hospitals, such as INHS Kalyani (being upgraded from 206 beds to 604 beds Command Hospital), INHS Sanjivani (being upgraded from 275 beds to 439 beds Super-Speciality Hospital) and INHS Patanjali (being upgraded from 141 beds to 409 beds hospital), are undergoing significant upgrades, including infrastructure expansion, increased bed capacity and the augmentation of human resources to meet the rising demands including those during health crisis.
  - (ii) The Indian Navy has also acquired a Portable Containerised Medical Facility (PCMF), a versatile and mobile Medical unit designed to provide comprehensive Medical care both at sea and on land. The PCMF includes an Operating Theater, ICU, Isolation ward, Laboratory, Dental and X-ray facilities is designed for rapid deployment in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. This facility is envisaged to provide timely healthcare support during pandemic-like emergencies.
  - (iii) To enhance diagnostic capabilities, state-of-the-art microbiological technologies have been introduced including molecular techniques such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/RT-PCR, which enable rapid and precise molecular diagnosis. Additionally, advanced point of care diagnostic tools like TrueNat and Biofire assays further strengthen early disease detection, while the adoption of Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization – Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry has revolutionized microbial identification, reducing turnaround times to mere minutes.

(c) Indian Air Force Hospitals have been encouraged to enter into Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with nearest co-located Govt Hospitals/ AIIMS/ Govt Medical Colleges for mutual assistance in providing quality care to clientele during Operations/pandemic like situation when such facilities are not available at Indian Air Force Hospitals.

(d) Apart from this, Armed Forces Central Epidemiological Cell (AFCEC) has been established in Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune. The central epidemiological team in AFMC, Pune can move at short notice to investigate the outbreak.

(e) To increase diagnostic capability during pandemic: -

(i) Whole genome sequencing laboratory has been established at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi & AFMC, Pune.

(ii) Establishment of 10 Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) as part of the Armed Forces laboratory network under Department of Health Research.

(f) Armed Forces Hospitals & units can move at short notice to establish medical care set-up to provide emergency services. During the COVID-19, the AFMS established 50 dedicated & mixed COVID hospitals to provide medical related services.

### **Training and Medical Research in AFMS**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

AFMS has signed an MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for collaborative research and training. Under the aegis of this MoU, AFMS officers have

registered for Indian Council of Medical Research- Department of Health Research (ICMR-DHR) Young Medical Faculty, PhD program.

2. Two Centres of Advanced Research (CAR), namely, Space Psychology at Institute of Aerospace Medicine and AFMS Biomedical Innovations Validation and Integration Centre at Armed Forces Medical College, have been established under the aegis of ICMR. Regional centre for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) has also been opened in AFMS with ICMR support. ICMR has supported AFMS to be at the forefront of diagnostics and research with establishment of multiple Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) in AFMS institutions.

3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between AFMS and National Institutes of repute like Department of Biotechnology, NIMHANS and IITs etc. These MoUs have helped by making it possible for AFMS researchers to utilize the expertise of these institutes for research in AFMS.

### **Achievement of AFMS**

#### **Recommendation No. 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

To continue the innovations pertaining to Medical care for the Armed Forces, AFMS has entered into MoU with Innovation for Defence Excellence- Defence Innovation Organization (iDEX-DIO). The Defence India Startup Challenge Edition-Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (DISC-MIRA) Challenge has been launched by iDEX-DIO. Problem statements submitted by AFMS for innovative solutions in the field of medicine for service personnel have also been launched in the ibid challenge. AFMS is also collaborating with ISRO for innovative solutions pertaining to combat medicine.



### **CHAPTER – III**

**Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in  
view of the replies received from the Government**

**- NIL -**

#### **CHAPTER – IV**

**Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee**

**-NIL-**

## **CHAPTER - V**

**Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited**

**-Nil-**

**New Delhi;  
04 December, 2025  
13 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)**

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2025-26)**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
DEFENCE (2025-26)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from 1500 hrs to 1530 hrs in Committee Room D, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Radha Mohan Singh- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 2  | Shri Karti P Chidambaram     |
| 3  | Shri Ranjit Dutta            |
| 4  | Shri Mohmad Haneefa          |
| 5  | Ms. S. Jothimani             |
| 6  | Shri Shashank Mani           |
| 7  | Shri Jagannath Sarkar        |
| 8  | Shri Virendra Singh          |
| 9  | Shri Kesineni Sivanath       |
| 10 | Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha |

**Rajya Sabha**

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 11 | Shri Naresh Bansal           |
| 12 | Shri Kamal Haasan            |
| 13 | Shri Muzibulla Khan          |
| 14 | Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal       |
| 15 | Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam     |
| 16 | Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil |
| 17 | Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi        |

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                           |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. Shri Amrish Kumar      | - | Director         |
| 3. Shri Ajay Kumar Prasad | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them about the agenda for the Sitting *i.e.* consideration and adoption of the draft Action Taken Reports on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their 7<sup>th</sup> , 8<sup>th</sup> , 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26.

3. The Committee then took up the following four draft Reports for consideration:

**(i) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Estates Organisation, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand Nos. 19, 20 and 21)';**

**(ii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (18<sup>th</sup> 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)';**

**(iii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on 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 No. 21 and 22)'; and**

**(iv) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on 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)'.**

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the above Reports without any modifications. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Report and present the same to the Parliament on a date convenient to him.

The Committee then adjourned.

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## APPENDIX II

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EIGHTH REPORT (18<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE 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)'.**

- 1. Total No. of Recommendations 33**
- 2. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II):**  
  
**Recommendation Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16, 17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32 and 33.**  
  

**Total : 33**  
**Percentage:100%**
- 3. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (Chapter III):**  
  
**Recommendation Para Nos. -Nil-**  
  

**Total : 00**  
**Percentage:00 %**
- 4. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV):**  
  
**-Nil-**  
  

**Total : 00**  
**Percentage:00%**
- 5. Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V)**  
  
**-Nil-**  
  

**Total : 00**  
**Percentage:00%**