

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006  
LIFE ENHANCEMENT OF MIG-29  
Mcleod Smt. Ingrid

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Indian Air Force has sought the life enhancement of its frontline fighter MIG-29 by an additional 500 hours over and above the existing norms;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) The steps proposed to ensure that the enhancement of flying life of the MIG-29 does not affect its performance and safety as well as air-worthiness?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The Indian Air Force has proposed a mid-life upgrade and Total Technical Life (TTL) extension of MiG-29 aircraft. As part of the mid-life upgrade, the life of MiG-29 aircraft, which were inducted between 1986 and 1995, gets extended from 25 years/2500 hours to 40 years/3500 hours to meet the requirements of the IAF. These aircraft use technologies of 1980s vintage and better technologies are now available which can considerably enhance the operational capability of the aircraft.

(c) Mid-life upgrade and TTL extension is a globally accepted process and is undertaken scientifically to ensure performance, safety and air-worthiness. The proposed life enhancement is based on the studies done at Russian Federation facilities.