

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2822
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
SQUADRON STRENGTH OF AIR FORCE
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's fighter squadron strength has dwindled from 45 sanctioned squadrons to around 32 squadrons in position presently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to increase the squadron strength ;
- (c) whether order for purchase of multi-role combat aircraft is likely to be finalized; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government will ensure that no middleman will be allowed in the deal so that India gets best possible offer in terms of price and quality of the product ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : The security environment and the requirements of the Air Force are constantly reviewed by the Government and steps are taken from time to time to induct new aircraft as well as to upgrade existing aircraft to sustain force levels. This is an on-going process.

(c) & (d): Request for Proposal for purchase of multi-role combat aircraft for the Air Force has been issued. The purchase will be made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.