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Title: Regarding decrease in the number of IAF Squadrons posing threat to the National Security.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that there is no gainsaying the fact that India has been surrounded by hostile neighbours. In all the preceding, hostilities that took place in our border, Indian Air Force had always played a very formidable role in providing security, in providing defence of this country.

Sir, now the situation has come to such a pass that there has been a huge erosion of our forces competitiveness in view of the fact that when 45 squadrons are healthy for the Indian Air Force, now the active force level has been reduced to 34.

In the year 2001, request for information was sent for purchasing 126 *Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft*. It took six years to issue request for proposal and further took four years for short listing the vendors. That is why our active force No. of squadron has been reducing day after day. On the one hand, when our hostile neighbours - Pakistan and China - are revamping at an alarming pace their Air Forces, on the other hand we are simply day after day reducing our force level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point. What do you want to say?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Yes, Sir. That is why my intention is to draw the attention of this Government to induct expeditiously 126 *Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft* and put our Air Force in such a way so that any hostility that is anticipated could be prevented in a befitting manner.