

Title: Need to modernize the armed forces and allocate more funds for operational capabilities.

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA): The study conducted by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), has raised concern over India's growing expenditure on defence personnel which has adversely affected its operation and preparedness. The expenditure on personnel has increased from 27% of the total defence budget in 2007 to 41% in 2012, while expenditure on operation and maintenance has decreased from 25% to 15% in the same period. I am sure that with the implementation of the OROP and the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission, this ratio will further go down. One of the arguments for the larger expenditure on personnel is the relative mix of the strength of the services that constitute the armed forces. The IDSA has reported that the share of the army in the total personnel strength of the armed forces is over 85% while those in the US is 39% and UK is 59%. In the view of these facts, there is a need to shift focus on modernising the armed forces and spend more on operational capabilities rather than building huge contingents of boots on the ground. The Indian armed forces should not be treated as employment providing agencies. The armed forces have an important, vital and need based professional role to play. The budget allocation should be made keeping these points in view.