20

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

(2025-26)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27)

ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY, JOINT STAFF, EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES

(DEMAND NOS. 20 AND 21)

TWENTIETH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2026 / Phalguna 1947 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.03.2026.

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.03.2026.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2026 / Phalguna 1947 (Saka)

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2025-26), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Twentieth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27 on 'Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (Demand Nos. 20 and 21).'

2. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence were laid on 6th February, 2026 in Lok Sabha. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence on 19th and 20th February, 2026. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 16th March, 2026.

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

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Defence and representatives of the Services/Organisations for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants.

5. The Committee also place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them by the Committee Secretariat.

New Delhi;
16 March, 2026
25 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

RADHA MOHAN SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Defence

REPORT

CHAPTER I

ARMY

The Committee are aware of the fact that the security challenges confronting our nation are diverse and intricate. The Indian Army (IA) recognizes these complexities alongside the swiftly changing geopolitical, socio-economic, and technological landscapes. Consequently, the IA has designated the period from 2022 to 2032 as the `Decade of Transformation' to build a future-ready force. While continuously assessing operational readiness, the IA remains dedicated to advancing national interests and protecting the country's sovereignty and unity from both external and internal threats. The budgetary demands for Army are contained in Demand Nos. 20 and 21.

1.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Army for the year 2026-27, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and actual expenditure for Army during the last five years including 2025-26, separately for Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2026-27. The details submitted to the Committee are tabulated below:

A. REVENUE (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
2023-24	1,84,989.60	1,81,371.97	1,97,628.57	1,95,032.23	1,91,597.63
2024-25	2,14,577.03	1,91,319.60	2,01,289.26	1,98,427.82	1,97,039.51
2025-26	2,14,727.72	2,06,200.00	2,38,807.48	2,29,648.71	1,64,465.05
2026-27	2,61,542.98	2,41,968.98	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
2023-24	37,341.54	37,341.54	33,412.16	33,412.16	28,613.50
2024-25	35,664.95	35,664.95	34,670.21	34,226.95	40,594.03
2025-26	33,400.68	33,400.68	36,198.43	35,239.66	26,810.53
2026-27	41,672.94	41,672.94	-	-	-

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(ii) RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

1.3 From the table `A', it is evident that the Revenue budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. A major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary 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. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2026-27, against Revenue Head, projection of Army was Rs. 2,61,542.98 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 2,41,968.98 crore, hence allocation lessened by Rs. 19574 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2025-26, under Revenue head, Army's projection was Rs. 2,38,807.48 crore and allocation made was Rs. 2,29,648.71 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 9158.77 crore, however, the expenditure incurred during FY 2025-26 was Rs. 1,64,465.05 crore.

Capital Budget

1.4 Capital Budget, as shown in table `B', provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2026-27, Army's projection was Rs. 41,672.94 crore and the same amount was allocated to it. There is no deduction allocation *vis-a-vis* demand which is higher than BE 2025-26 projection of Rs. 33,400.68 crore. In RE 2025-26, the projection of the Army was Rs. 36,198.43 crore and there was deduction in allocation by Rs. 958.77 crore. However, the expenditure incurred during FY 2025-26 was only Rs. 26,810.53 crore.

1.5 During oral evidence, on allocation of budget, the representative of Army apprised the Committee as under:

> "I will now highlight the Budget allocations for the Financial Year 2026-27. The Indian Army has been allocated Rs. 2,85,735 crore, representing an 18 per cent increase from the Budget Estimates of the previous financial year. This allocation will be utilised across two major categories. First, the revenue component, which primarily covers operations, maintenance and sustenance, as well as the budget for salaries, risk and hardship allowances. The second category on which the allocation will be utilised is the capital component, which is designated for modernisation and infrastructure development."

(Verbatim Proceedings dated 19.2.2026, Page No. 19)

1.6 Further, in respect of Demand No. 20, the representative submitted:

> "Now, coming to demand number 20, which is the revenue budget, the allocation is Rs. 2,44,128 crore. This allocation is strategically designed to enhance our defence capabilities and support our armed forces. The amount of Rs. 85,841 crore is allocated for vital expenditures on ammunition, rations, fuel, clothing, equipment maintenance, transportation, supplies and the ex-serviceman contributory health scheme. This comprehensive funding ensures our personnel are well equipped and cared for, reinforcing our commitment to maintenance of operational readiness and national security. An amount of Rs. 1,58,287 crore is specifically set aside for salaries and allowances.
>
> This Budget is strategically structured to ensure that every allocation maximises our operational readiness. A substantial amount of Rs. 26,983 crore of the non-salary revenue budget is dedicated to stores, which are vital for maintaining our Army's

effectiveness. This allocation supports critical needs such as ammunition, security-related equipment and the replacement of weapons and vehicles, as well as essential supplies like rations, fuel and clothing. These resources are fundamental to sustaining our forces. With Rs. 11,890 crore of the budget focused on works, we prioritise the construction and maintenance of crucial infrastructure. This includes field defences and logistic storage facilities, as well as accommodation for our personnel in border areas and peace stations. These investments are essential for operational efficiency and soldiers' welfare. We have allocated Rs. 5,738 crore for transportation, a key enabler for operational mobility. This funding will facilitate the efficient moving of units between operational and peace stations, ensuring that our forces remain agile for training and deployment. The careful distribution and prioritisation of these allocations reflect our commitment to meeting operational needs and addressing critical challenges effectively."

1.7 In respect of Demand No. 21, the representative of Army submitted the following:

"I will now cover the Indian Army allocations for capital expenditure as part of Demand No. 21. The capital budget has two main components. The first is modernisation through the procurement of new equipment and weapon platforms, which amounts to Rs. 34,150 crore or 82 per cent of the total allocation under capital head. The remaining Rs. 7,457 crore and 18 per cent is designated for development of key infrastructure in the financial year. The modernisation budget is set to strategically allocate funds for delivery-based payments concerning weapons, ammunition and essential military equipment, including new acquisitions. The infrastructure budget is planned to be allocated for the construction of roads, ammunition storage, essential and critical logistic infrastructure in border areas, as well as storage facilities and accommodation."

1.8 When the Committee desired to know about the pace of reforms, the representative of the Army submitted as under:-

"…..I would like to highlight some positive developments and future roadmap. Impetus is on enhancing capital expenditure and infrastructure development along borders. There is focus is on technology infusion, with emphasis on collaboration in research and development with academia and industry. There is also revision of various policies and financial documents, with focus on reducing timelines, facilitating faster decision-making and establishing a robust monitoring mechanism…."

Percentage Share of Army Budget

1.9 When the Committee desired to know the percentage share of Army budget, both in Revenue and Capital segments, out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years, the Ministry furnished the following:

"Details of budget allocated at Budget Estimates (BE) stage to Army under Revenue and Capital Heads out of Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years and FY 2026-27 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Army (Revenue)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Army (Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Army (Revenue + Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,47,088.28	1,47,644.13	42.54	36,531.90	10.53	1,84,176.03	53.06
2022-23	3,85,370.15	1,63,713.69	42.48	32,115.26	8.33	1,95,828.95	50.82
2023-24	4,32,720.14	1,81,371.97	41.91	37,341.54	8.63	2,18,713.51	50.54
2024-25	4,54,772.67	1,91,319.60	42.07	35,664.95	7.84	2,26,984.55	49.91
2025-26	4,91,732.30	2,06,200.00	41.93	33,400.68	6.79	2,39,600.68	48.73
2026-27	5,84,785.45	2,41,968.98	41.38	41,672.94	7.13	2,83,641.92	48.50

1.10 Further, details of expenditure incurred by Army under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years (including FY 2025-26) are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Army	%age share	Army	%age share	Army	%age share

		(Revenue)	w.r.t. DSE	(Capital)	w.r.t. DSE	(Revenue + Capital)	w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,66,545.91	1,57,092.05	42.86	25,130.94	6.86	1,82,222.99	49.71
2022-23	3,99,123.44	1,70,019.87	42.60	36,616.19	9.17	2,06,636.06	51.77
2023-24	4,44,699.20	1,91,597.63	43.08	28,613.50	6.43	2,20,211.13	49.52
2024-25	4,50,732.91	1,97,039.51	43.72	40,594.03	9.01	2,37,633.54	52.72
2025-26	3,74,701.08	1,64,465.05	43.89	26,810.53	7.16	1,91,275.58	51.05

Note:

(i) DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories/DoO(C&S), NCC, & DGQA Budget.

(ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(iii) BE 2026-27 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.11 There is an evident decrease in percentage share of revenue budget of Army out of Defence Services Estimates from **42.54** per cent in 2021-22 to **41.38** per cent in 2026-27 and in capital budget share from **10.53** percent in 2021-22 to 7**.13** per cent in 2026-27.

1.12 When the Committee desired to know whether any adjustments were made due to reduced allocation, the Ministry, in a written reply, apprised as under :

"Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Army during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as follows:-

REVENUE (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	1,70,705.28	1,47,644.13	1,68,657.23	1,57,619.06	1,57,092.05
2022-23	1,74,038.35	1,63,713.69	1,80,526.71	1,73,335.62	1,70,019.87
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2024-25	2,14,577.03	1,91,319.60	2,01,289.26	1,98,427.82	1,97,039.51
2025-26	2,14,727.72	2,06,200.00	2,38,807.48	2,29,648.71	1,64,465.05

CAPITAL (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	51,492.10	36,531.90	38,344.90	25,377.09	25,130.94
2022-23	46,844.37	32,115.26	32,598.49	32,598.49	36,616.19
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2024-25	35,664.95	35,664.95	34,670.21	34,226.95	40,594.03
2025-26	33,400.68	33,400.68	36,198.43	35,239.66	26,810.53

Note:

(i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(ii) RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.13 It may be seen from the data provided above that there has been consistent increase in the allocations at RE stage in respect of Army under both Revenue and Capital Heads from FY 2021-22, onwards. It may also be seen that there has always been saving at the end of each aforementioned financial year except 2022-23 and 2024-25 under Capital Head. Hence it is noted that sufficient funds were made available during the aforementioned years for expenditure by the services on various projects. Further, the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and urgent and critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Army and additional funds, if required, were provided at MA stage to meet the requisite expenditure. Requisite actions are being taken to ensure optimum utilization of fund during the current financial year.

Budget for Modernization

1.14 The Committee were apprised that during FY 2025-26, Rs. 26,100.00 crore and Rs. 29,000.00 crore were allocated to Army at BE and RE stage, respectively, under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 23,009.01 crore has been incurred by Army upto December, 2025. Further, surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year i.e. 2025-26. However, MoD is regularly reviewing the status of expenditure and taking necessary action for its optimum utilization during the current financial year.

Further, in BE 2026-27, an amount of Rs. 34,150.00 crore has been allocated to Army under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

Note: RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

1.15 In addition, the Committee have been apprised as under:

"Under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head, Army had not sought additional allocation at any Supplementary stages in FYs 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24.

In first supplementary 2024-25, Army had not sought additional funds. However, in second supplementary as requested by Army, an amount of Rs. 27 crore had been provided to Army as a token supplementary under Modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head.

2. Further, Army had not sought additional allocations at first supplementary stage in FY 2025-26 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head."

1.16 Details of additional requirements projected by Army under Modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Additional funds	RE Allocation

	Allocation	Projection	projected at RE stage over BE allocations	
2021-22	30,636.90	30,636.90	0.00	19,485.09
2022-23	25,908.85	27,051.00	1,142.15	27,051.00
2023-24	30,163.00	26,500.00	-3,663.00	26,500.00
2024-25	27,421.33	27,864.54	443.21	27,421.33
2025-26	26,100.00	29,728.00	3,628.00	29,000.00

The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head.

1.17 Details of requirements projected by Army under Modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head at MA stage and the allocation made during the last five years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2021-22	19,485.09	20,304.93	819.84	20,304.93
2022-23	27,051.00	31,751.00	4,700.00	31,751.00
2023-24	26,500.00	23,900.00	-2,600.00	23,900.00
2024-25	27,421.33	34,968.62	7,547.29	34,968.62
2025-26	26,100.00	NA		

It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and urgent & critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note: RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

1.18 Further, with regard to enhancement of technology in Indian Army, the representative of the Army submitted as under: -

"The Indian Army is actively involved in various technology related national missions from 6g initiatives to the latest national quantum mission. Most Indian Institutes of Technologies and other research and development establishments will have dedicated Indian Army cells. To facilitate technology conversion, the Indian Army has identified 16 technology clusters each with specific responsibilities and outcomes. A high-power computing AI cloud is being developed soon for all the three services with Indian Army leading the initiative.

Further, the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering at Mhow has become a strategic partner in Indian AI mission, Chip to Startup mission and quantum key distribution projects. Capability development is progressing steadily. Acquisition procedures are being reviewed and renewed under Atamnirbharta, based on lesson from Operation Sindoor and emerging threat perception. Over three hundred schemes are planned to acquire potent fighting capabilities over the next ten years. Post Operation-Sindoor, emergency procurement provisions were accorded in 2025 for capital and revenue procurement to further enhance capability to development. Emergency procurements are being utilised for acquiring drones, counter-drones, weapon systems, precision ammunition, electronic warfare and surveillance systems. …."

Planning and Procurement

1.19 On Planning and Procurement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"Defence Capital acquisition is carried out in accordance with the Defence Acquisition Procedure(DAP) and the two year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP). The cases listed in the approved Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP) are progressed as per the DAP provisions and funds allocated and budgeted under the capital Acquisitions heads of Concerned Service for the given financial year.

Details of Acceptance of Necessity (AoNs) accorded for Army during last financial year 2024-25 and current Financial year 2025-26 (upto Dec, 2025) are given below: -

2024-25		2025-26 (upto Dec, 2025)	
No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)	No. of AoN	Value (Rs. in Cr)
09	66,306.88	12	94,659.96

During last financial year 2024-25 and current financial year 2025-26 (upto Dec, 2025), 21 AoNs worth about ₹1,60,966.84 Cr have been accorded which are under various stages of the Acquisition process for induction of the equipment in the services in subsequent years."

1.20 As Committee desired to know about status of a large number of Army equipment remaining vintage, the CDS submitted as under: -

"….आर्मी का यह जो पहला इक्विपमेंट है, इसमें विंटेज 30 परसेंट, करेंट 40 परसेंट और स्टेट ऑफ ऑल 30 परसेंट है। यह एक पुराना मापदंड था। इसमें हम थोड़ा बदलाव कर रहे हैं। मैंने सुबह भी बताया था कि वॉरफेयर जैसे ही इवॉल्व हो रहा है। पहला रेवोल्यूशन मिलिट्री अफेयर्स का मेनुअर वॉरफेयर था, दूसरा नेटसेंड्रिक और तीसरा इंटेलिजेंस था। हम

उस पैमाने में भी अपनी तैयारी देखेंगे। इसके साथ ही साथ किसी ने नीज टेक्नोलॉजीज़ के बारे में सवाल पूछा था कि हम इसके बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं। इसमें सरकार ने नॉर्मल प्रोक्योरमेंट्स के अलावा इमरजेंसी प्रोक्योरमेंट्स की व्यवस्था की है। जिसमें हमने ड्रोन्स, काउंटर ड्रोन सिस्टम्स, इलेक्ट्रोनिक वॉरफेयर, प्रशिक्षण वेपन्स आदि खरीदे थे। हमने इन्हें ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में भी इस्तेमाल किया था और इनसे हमें फायदा भी हुआ। जिस हिसाब से युद्ध के तरीके चेंज हो रहे हैं, हमने यह प्रोक्योरमेंट उस हिसाब से किया है........"

Indigenization

1.21 The Committee desired to know about the efforts made by the Army towards realization of indigenization and self-reliance. In this connection, it was informed that the Ministry of Defence has taken a number of initiatives towards import substitution in armament acquisition and achieve the goal of Make in India initiative. DAP 2020, being the guiding document of capital acquisition has incorporated a number of initiative such as:

i. Highest priority to procurement is given to Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category, followed by Buy (Indian), Buy and Make (Indian), Buy (Global-Manufacture in India), Buy (Global) Categories.

ii. Make-I (Govt. Funded) and Make-II (Industry-Funded) projects were introduced to promote prototype development of niche technology items, in collaboration with development Agencies including private entities.

iii. Indigenization of imported spares through Make-III process (mainly through ToT) has been introduced with the aim of enhancing self-reliance through import substitution.

iv. Increased IC in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020 have been mandated. Minimum 50% of overall IC, as stipulated for all categories of procurement cases, to be in the form of material/ components/ software that are manufactured in India.

v. Self-reliance in Indian Defence eco system with “No foreign sourcing”. Foreign procurements only as exceptions with prior approval of Defence Acquisition Council.

vi. The DAP 2020 encourages participation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to create a robust defence industrial eco-system and aims to enhance the ease of doing business, through liberalizing the financial parameters of vendor selection criteria for MSMEs and Start-ups to participate in the Capital procurement cases. For procurement cases where the estimated cost is upto ₹300 Cr., the recognized Start-ups/ MSMEs in the relevant fields are considered for issue of RFP without any stipulation of Financial parameters and with General and Technical parameters to be decided on case to case basis.

vii. DRDO through the Technology Development Fund (TDF) provides grant-in-aid to industries, including MSMEs and start-ups along with Academic and Scientific institutions for the development of defence and dual-use technologies currently not available with the Indian defence industry.

viii. With a view to promote domestic and indigenous industry, MoD has notified a list of weapons/platforms banned for import. Five Positive Indigenization Lists, covering 509 items have been released till date.

ix. Earmarking of 64.09% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement in 2021-22, which have been increased to 68% for FY 2022-23, 75% for FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26.”

1.22 The Committee were apprised that during the last five financial year (2020-21 to 2024-25) and current Financial year 2025-26 (upto December, 2025), total 479 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Army, out of which 419 contracts worth about 91.32 % of total contracts value, have been signed with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment.

Details of capital expenditure incurred on Indigenous procurement for Defence Equipment by the Army for the last five financial year and current financial year are as under: -

(Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Indigenous Procurement
2020-21	17,446.83
2021-22	17,290.96
2022-23	20,018.59
2023-24	21,607.65
2024-25	33,549.35
2025-26 (Upto Dec, 2025)	20,853.41

1.23 The Ministry further informed that in BE 2025-26, an amount of ₹ 1,11,544.83 Cr (i.e. 75% of the total Capital Acquisition Budget of ₹ 1,48,722.80 Cr) has been earmarked for Capital Acquisition from indigenous sources by M/o Defence.

Further, an amount of ₹22, 600 Cr (i.e. 86.59% of the total allocation of ₹26,100 Cr to Army under Capital Acquisition Head) has been earmarked to Army for acquisition from indigenous sources in BE 2025-26.

In FY 2026-27, proposed earmarking for domestic and foreign procurement, in line with last three years, is 75% and 25% respectively. Total capital Acquisition Budget is ₹1,84,931.92 Cr, which makes Domestic Budget ₹1,38,698.94 Cr and Foreign Budget ₹46,232.98 Cr. And, for Army, an amount of ₹28,909.00 Cr (i.e.

84.65% of the total allocation of ₹34,150.00 Cr) is proposed for Capital Acquisition from indigenous sources (Domestic Procurement).

1.24 With regard to transformation of the Indian Army towards *Atmanirbharta*, the representative of the Army during oral evidence stated :-

> “Self-sufficiency in defence procurement and manufacturing is a strategic imperative for India. For example, through concerted and pro-active efforts and in close coordination with other agencies 163 out of 175, that is, 93 per cent ammunition variant have been indigenised. There are total of 57 items authorised as part of special clothing and mountaineering equipment. Out of which 53 have been indigenised. Indian Army has also acquired the capability for developing in-house drone systems with the aim to undertake development of indigenous autonomous weapon systems with desired lethal payload and appropriate human control missions the experiment was conducted in April, 2025 to evaluate indigenous capability in autonomous weapon systems and to evolve a roadmap for its induction.”

<u>Force Level of Army</u>

1.25 The Committee when desired to know about the authoritzed as well as actual strength of equipments in the Army, the Ministry in their written reply intimated that:-

> “Equipment holdings are dynamic and change based upon obsolescence, de-induction and new inductions. Acquisition of equipment is an ongoing process. The deficiencies of equipment, wherever existing, are being made up through Capital and Revenue procurements. A focused approach has been adopted to make up the deficiencies. Weapons/ equipment/ ammunition urgently required to meet the operational requirements are being procured through the

delegated financial and Emergency Procurement powers of the Indian Army. To ensure resilient supply chains, Indian Army has been closely collaborating with DRDO, DPSUs and Private Industry towards indigenization. 90% of Indian Army's ammunition has been indigenised i.e. (157 out of 175 items), thus reducing import dependency & establishing a robust 'Atmanirbhar' Ammunition Manufacturing ecosystem.".

1.26 As regards, restructuring of the Force, the representative of Army during oral evidence apprised the Committee as under:-

"Taking lessons from the conflicts going around the world and the necessity to carry out multi-domain operations, Indian Army has carried out various transformation and reorganisation in the year 2025. Rudra Brigade represents the most significant structural change in Indian Army. Rudra Brigades are combined arms formations that permanently integrate infantry, armour, artillery, engineers, signals, air defence, drones, and logistics echelons.

Further, Bhairav Battalions, Ashni protons and shaktimaan regiments have also been raised. Designed from modern warfares, these specialised units will combine speed, technology and precision….

इंडियन आर्मी बॉर्डर एरिया डेवलपमेंट पर विशेष ध्यान दे रही है। जिसे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, कम्युनिकेशन, टूरिज्म और एजुकेशन जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों के माध्यम से आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है। इस संदर्भ में भारत रणभूमि दर्शन, फॉरवर्ड एरिया बैटलफील्ड्स के विजिट से संबंधित सूचना और क्लियरेंस के लिए एक वन स्टॉप सोल्यूशन के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है। इंडियन आर्मी विकसित भारत **@ 2047** के विजन के प्रति पूर्ण रूप से कमिटेड है तथा बॉर्डर एरियाज में ऑपरेशन सद्भावना के अंतर्गत मिलिट्री सिविक एक्शन प्रोजेक्ट्स संचालित कर रही है।

Jointness and Integration

1.27 As regards the jointness and integration among the three forces, the representative of the Army apprised the Committee as under:

"….The Indian Army is on the path of jointness and integration in line with the vision of the vision of Chief of Defence Staff and all three services are working towards one common goal. We are enhancing our integration through pursuits in common operational planning process, technology development, harmonising intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance resources, aggregating remotely piloted assets, joint standard operating procedures and formulation of joint military civil fusion doctrine.

Indian Army is enhancing it in defence through integration of Akashteer, Command and control system which creates a real time unified and automated picture of the battlefield by integrating with the Indian air forces integrated air command and control system."

Manpower

1.28 With regard to the required and existing manpower in the Army, the Ministry through their written reply submitted as under:-

"The following proposals are under implementation/ process: -

The efforts to make 'Short Service Entry More Attractive' are producing positive results. The implementation of measures has witnessed substantial increase in number of applications across all entries. Vacancies for SSC entries are being fully subscribed.

Proposal on 'Restructuring of PC (SL) Cadre' is under deliberation.

Policy/Procedural Reform in Selection Process

(i) New Entry Scheme for Service Graduate personnels to induct directly into Indian Military Academy (Army Cadet College Graduate) has been implemented.

(ii) Young Leaders Training Wing has been opened at OTA Chennai for training serving soldiers.

(iii) Removal of Stage 1 of SSB for In-Service Entries

(iv) Posting of 40 x Additional Officers to SSB - Increase in assessment capacity by 25%.

(v) Tailored SSB Batch planning as per vacancies.

(vi) Digitization and Automation of various SSB testing and processes.

(vii) Use of various existing National level exam (CLAT PG, JEE) scores for shortlisting of candidates for SSB.

(viii) Introduction of UPSC based written exam Combined Defence Service Technical Examination (CDSTE) for Tech Entries {TGC & SSC (T)} of Indian Army wef year 2026.

Measures to Inspire and Attract Youth to Join Indian Army

(i) Regular advertisements in Print/ Electronic/ social media on "How to Join Indian Army" & other benefits are launched to motivate youth & also inform them about different opportunities to serve in Indian Army.

(ii) To attract youth to join the Indian Army, recruiting offices have been conducting extensive outreach in schools, colleges and NCC camps to enhance awareness in various avenues available for joining the Indian Army as well as on the nuances of the recruitment process.

(iii) Extensive outreach campaigns for recruitment of Agniveers, Other Ranks & Junior Commissioned Officers are being carried out by respective Zonal Recruiting Offices (ZROs)/Army Recruiting Offices (AROs) especially in rural areas and also in print, Digital and social media. In addition, motivation lectures are being organized in various schools/ Colleges/ ITIs.

(iv) The Shortage of manpower in Army will be met progressively under the Agnipath Scheme to reach the optimum strength. While the annual vacancies released is based on the exits, wastages & intakes, however presently the total vacancies released under the Agnipath scheme for year 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 have been capped by the govt to 1.75 Lacs.”.

1.29 In a supplementary List of Points when asked whether the shortage of Officers’ strength of Indian Army is required to be filled up urgently in view of security scenario of the country; actions contemplated thereof and till the time of fructification whether estimation done for future vacancies and plan for the filling of vacancies, the Ministry replied as under:

“The shortage of officers is planned to be overcome in a focused and time bound manner, keeping in view the factors of accretions, exit and yearly intake. Following proposals have been undertaken in addition to address the issue: -

Additional Vacancies. Sustained efforts of multiple agencies have resulted in approximately 28% vacancies increase in officer entries in 2025.

Enhanced Intake Post Reforms in SSB. Indian Army has taken a number of steps such as reforms in SSB process to mitigate shortage of officers, mainly at younger profile. The steps taken have resulted in enhanced intake of officers in year 2024-2025 to approximately 90% of vacancies released.

Making Short Service More Lucrative. Short Service Commission entry has been made more lucrative for youth, through a number of reforms, thus inviting heavy participation.

In-Service Entries. Various reforms have been introduced to make the in-service entries more lucrative. The same has resulted in increased subscription of these entries by aspirants from within the Service. Some key reforms are as under:-

Young Leaders Training Wing. Young Leaders Training Wing has been established at OTA Chennai to identify and train the potential candidates amongst the In-Service aspirants so that the In-Service entries are optimally subscribed.

Reforms in SSB. First stage of SSB has been removed for PC(SL) & SCO entries.

ACC (Graduate) Entry. Under this entry, soldiers who are graduates will be inducted directly into IMA, Dehradun for 18 months training period rather than 3 years courses at ACC. This will result in better HR management, optimal utilization of trained manpower and also reduce time and cost of training; saving to the exchequer. The entry will commence from ACC-134 course (January 2027) onwards.

1.30 In an another supplementary List of Points when enquired whether any timeline has been framed to fill the vacancies of Junior Commissioned Officers'/Other Ranks (JCOs/OR), the Ministry replied as under:

"The shortage of manpower of JCOs/OR is small and is being made up progressively through recruitments to reach optimum strength.

The recruitment notifications are being publicized in timely manner and are adequately publicized through the National Newspapers, Employment News and Social Media. In addition, extensive outreach programmes are conducted in educational institutions, NCC, etc to raise awareness and motivate youth to join the Army.

Measures to Inspire and Attract Youth to Join Indian Army

Regular advertisements in Print/ Electronic/ Social Media on "How to Join Indian Army" and other benefits are launched to motivate youth and also inform them about different opportunities to serve in Indian Army.

To attract youth to join Indian Army, the recruiting offices have been conducting extensive outreach in schools, colleges and NCC camps to enhance awareness in various avenues available for joining Indian Army as well as on the nuances of the recruitment process.

Extensive outreach campaigns for recruitment of Agniveers, Other Ranks and Junior Commissioned Officers are being carried out by respective Zonal Recruiting Offices (ZROs)/Army Recruiting Offices (AROs) especially in rural areas and also in print, Digital and Social Media. In addition, motivation lectures are being organized in various schools/ Colleges/ ITIs."

1.31 The Committee in another supplementary List of Points equired whether the allocated amount for the Agnipath scheme under the revenue head is sufficient to meet the requirements of Army, the Ministry replied as under:

"Yes, the allotment for FY 2026-27 is sufficient to meet the current requirements of Agnipath Scheme and so far, 89% of the allotted amount has been booked."

1.32 In another written query when the Committee enquired whether the existing manpower in Army are adequate to meet the defence requirement, the Ministry replied as under:

"The authorization of manpower of Armed Forces is based upon a clear understanding of threat perception, current security environment and the perceived response to these scenarios. Apropos, the current authorized strength is deemed adequate as per the current challenges."

Women empowerment

1.33 The Committee when desired to know about the steps taken to ensure the induction of women into the Armed Forces, the Ministry in their written reply informed the Committee as under :-

"Officers. Following measures have been taken to increase Women Officers representation in the IA: -

Permanent Commission. After 2020, consequent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement from the ramparts of Red Fort, Permanent Commission to Women Officers is being granted in 13 x Combat Support Arms and Services such as Regiment of Artillery, Corps of Signals, Corps of Engineers, Army Aviation Corps, Army Air Defence, Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Intelligence Corps, and Remount & Veterinary Services. Permanent Commission to Women Officers in Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps & Military Nursing Services continues hither-to-fore. Earlier in Army Aviation, women officers were commissioned only into Air Traffic Control Branch of Army Aviation. However, wef year 2021, they are also being commissioned in Army Aviation as pilots.

Increase of Recruitment Vacancies for Women Officers. Vacancies allotted for recruitment of Women Officers has increased from 80 per yr in 2022 to 144 per yr in 2024/25. 120 vacancies, per year for women officer cadets have been earmarked in Officers Training Academy.

Women in Command Appointments. Equal opportunities are being afforded to women officers to appear in staff college exam at par with their male counterparts. Women officers are also being considered for Col (Selection Grade) ranks and are being given command appointments of Units/ Battalions, a critical benchmark of leadership in the Army. 119 Women Officers have been entrusted with the onerous responsibility of commanding Army units till now.

Sainik Schools/RMS/ RIMC. To ensure a gender-neutral future, it is essential to ensure that the feeder institutes are prepared to meet the imminent vacancies arising due to visionary steps being implemented. Therefore, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has reserved 10% seats for girls in all 33 Sainik Schools across India wef Academic year 2021-2022. The first batch of girls will pass out from SS Chhingchiip, Mizoram in 2026. Girl students are also appearing for Rashtriya Indian Military College and Rashtriya Military Schools entrance exams with effect from academic session 2022-23 to act as feeder for officer cadet entry into National Defence Academy.

Induction of Women Candidates at NDA. 20 vacancies per year have been allotted in National Defence Academy, Pune wef Jul 2022. The first regular women officers' batch has joined IMA Dehradun after completing training at NDA.

Equal Opportunities for Promotion. Women officers in the Indian Army enjoy the same promotional prospects as their male counterparts, allowing them to rise to senior positions based on merit.

Indian Army is taking progressive steps to increase the participation of women, while maintaining combat effectiveness. Following actions have been taken to ensure Gender Equality:-

Equal opportunity for employment in field/UN Mission/ Instructor/ Sport Activities. Equal opportunity of training courses to include Defence Service Staff College, Wellington.

Other Ranks

As per the Government sanction, 1700 women are to be inducted into Corps of Military Police in a phased manner to foster gender equality by providing equal opportunity to women to join Indian Army. The number of women as Other Rank currently in service is 410.".

Training in Indian Army

1.34 When the Committee enquired about the training institutes and curriculum of the training being imparted to officers/soldiers in Army, the Ministry through their written reply submitted as under:-

"**Details of Training Institutes for Officers/ JCOs/ORs in Army.** A total of approx. 55000 Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks are trained in more than 528 Courses which are conducted every year in Training Establishments under HQ ARTRAC.

Training Establishments for officers/ soldiers of all arms and services are categorised as Category 'A' Training Establishments, while those imparting recruitment and corps specific training are categorised as Category 'B' Training Establishments and their list is as follows-

LIST OF CATEGORY 'A' TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Army War College, Mhow
2. Military Intelligence Training School & Depot, Pune
3. AEC Training College & Centre, Panchmarhi
4. Institute of National Integration, Pune
5. Institute of Military Law, New Delhi
6. Junior Leaders Academy, Bareilly
7. NCO's Academy, Chana
8. Army Institute of Physical Training, Pune
9. Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte
10. High Altitude Warfare School, Gulmarg
11. School of Artillery, Deolali
12. Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahmednagar
13. Infantry School, Mhow

14. Junior Leaders Wing, Infantry School, Belgaum
15. Army Air Defence College, Gopalpur
16. Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nasik Road
17. Special Forces Training School, Bakloh
18. Army Airborne Training School, Agra
19. College of Military Engineering, Pune
20. Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow
21. Military College of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering, Secunderabad
22. Electronics & Mechanical Engineering School, Vadodara
23. ASC Centre & College, Bengaluru
24. AMC Centre & School, Lucknow
25. Military College of Material Management, Jabalpur
26. Remount & Veterinary Corps Centre & School, Meerut
27. CMP Centre & School, Bengaluru
28. Indian Military Academy, Dehradun
29. Officers Training Academy, Chennai
30. Officers Training Academy, Gaya
31. Simulator Development Division, Secunderabad
32. Wargaming Development Centre, Delhi
33. Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun
34. Mechanized Infantry Centre & School, Ahmednagar

LIST OF CATEGORY 'B' TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. The SIKH Regimental Centre, Ramgarh.

2. Parachute Regimental Centre, Bangalore.
3. SIKH LI Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh.
4. JAK LI Regimental Centre, Srinagar.
5. Punjab Regimental Centre, Ramgarh.
6. Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington.
7. Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bengaluru.
8. The Grenadiers Regimental Centre, Jabalpur.
9. MARATHA LI Regimental Centre, Belgaum.
10. The Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre, Landsdowne.
11. Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahmednagar.
12. The Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet.
13. Dogra Regimental Centre, Ayodhya.
14. Bihar Regimental Centre, Danapur.
15. The Mahar Regimental Centre, Sagar.
16. Arty Centre, Nasik Road Camp.
17. Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre, Delhi.
18. 14 GTC, Subathu.
19. JAKRIF Regimental Centre, Jabalpur.
20. Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Bengaluru.
21. Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, Leh.
22. 3 EME Centre, Bhopal.
23. Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahmednagar.
24. 11 GR Training Centre, Lucknow.
25. AOC Centre, Secunderabad.
26. The Assam Regimental Centre, Shillong.
27. 58 GTC, Shillong.
28. No 1 Training Centre, ASC, Bengaluru.
29. No 2 Training Centre, ASC, Bengaluru.

30. The Guards Regimental Centre, Kamptee.
31. 1 EME Centre, Secunderabad.
32. 39 GTC, Varanasi.
33. APS Centre, Kamtee.
34. Aviation Training Centre, Nasik.
35. No 2 Signal Training Centre, Goa.
36. The Jat Regimental Centre, Bareilly.
37. AMC Centre, Lucknow.
38. CMP Centre & School, Bengaluru.
39. Artillery Centre, Secunderabad.
40. The Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh.
41. Bombay Engineer Group & Centre, Pune.
42. 1 Signal Training Centre, Jabalpur.
43. AEC Training College & Centre, Panchmarhi.
44. Bengal Engineer Group & Centre, Roorkee.
45. RVC Centre, Meerut.
46. Intelligence Training Centre, Pune.
47. Army Air Defence Centre, Gopalpur.

Revision of Syllabi of Courses

The Curriculum/ Syllabi for Institutionalised training in IA is reviewed on regular basis to keep them current & relevant. The same is based on the existing policy in vogue. The revision of Syllabi is a dynamic & continuous process that aims at incorporation of inputs as under: -

1. Recommendations of special studies to undertake comprehensive reviews incorporating inputs from all stakeholders.

2. Assessment of challenges being faced by Field Army.

3. Directions by IHQ of MoD (Army) to emphasise upon any special facet of training.

4. Need to continuously enhance the training standards.

5. Training on newly inducted equipment.

6. Changes in doctrines & new concepts of operation/ war fighting.

7. Organisational changes.

8. Post course analysis report.

9. Feedback from COs/ formations.

10. Feedback from students and faculty.

Training Advisory Committee. In addition to the regular review, Training Advisory Committee has been formed at HQ ARTRAC to make concerted efforts for obtaining inputs from all stakeholders in order to prepare comprehensive list of topics to be included in training under the heads of Technology Absorption, lessons learnt from ongoing conflicts and situations prevailing along borders. It has enabled the streamlining of course curriculum and syllabi of training in tune with contemporary trends in warfighting and technological advancements in Kinetic and Non-Kinetic domains of warfare.

Upgradation of Training Pamphlets. To prepare officers to handle changing character of war, a large number of General Staff Publications are being upgraded and revised to include latest inputs on New Generation Equipment/ lessons learnt from recent conflicts & technical data on disruptive/ niche technology/ equipment."

1.35 When the Committee desired to know about plans to fill the gap of personnel in Army, the CDS apprised the Committee as under:-

"…..हमारे पास अग्निवीर एंड ऑफिसर्स की कमी है। …….. अग्निवीर का जो चार साल का मॉडल था, वह स्टेब्लाइज़ करने के लिए था और हर एक साल के लिए सेट वैकेंसीज़ दी गई थी, लेकिन इसके बाद हमने अग्निवीर का कोटा डेफिशिएंसी के अनुसार दिया है। इसलिए हो सकता है कि दो-तीन साल में जो डेफिशिएंसीज़ हैं, वह पूरी हो जाएं। अग्निवीर के सलेक्शन के लिए वर्ष 2026 के आखिर में 75 प्रतिशत लोग बाहर हो जाएंगे और 25 प्रतिशत यहीं बने रहेंगे। Their proper SOPs, which have been created for all the three Services and vetted by the Department of Military Affairs, have been promulgated. ."

<u>Efforts made towards nation building</u>

1.36 With regard to the efforts made towards nation building, the representative of Army informed as under:-

"…….the primary mandate of the Indian Army is to ensure territorial integrity by deployment along our extended and unsettled borders. This entails the round the year deployment of forces extending over difficult terrain and harsh climatic conditions ranging from Siachen glaciers and rugged peaks of Ladakh, the mighty Himalayan ranges, plains of Punjab, dry and airy deserts, inhospitable mountains and dense jungles of the North-East to the barren run of kutch in the West. The Line of Actual Control is divided into three sectors, namely Western, Eastern and Central. To guard the Line of Actual Control, infantry battalions are deployed along the requisite elements of armour and fire support system. These deployments are reviewed regularly. Greater forces employed depending on the security situation. Surveillance along this sector is carried out by helicopter sorties and remotely piloted aircraft missions per day, and patrols per annum. Troops guard the Line of Control and deployed in the hinterland on counter insurgency duties.

Further, Army personnel carry out patrolling along the Line of Control and the hinterland. The Indian Army has neutralised 31 terrorists in 2025 and recovered 107 weapons. The Indian Army causalities have reduced over the years by equipping the shoulders with better weapons, surveillance system, and protective gear as also focused training. To support the troops deployed along the Northern borders, all forms of transport is exploited. Sufficient commodities are stocked as part of advanced winter stocking. The Indian Army is in the process of reducing its dependency on animal transport by adopting modern alternate means."

1.37 During oral evidence, the Committee desired to know whether there was any Army Unit to deal with non-kinetic warfare, to which CDS apprised the Committee as under:-

"We are introducing a non-kinetic warfare also. I did make a mention about cognitive warfare and the offensive aspects of it. I have made a mention about an electronic warfare, which is again kind of a non-kinetic warfare. In fact, we have just separated out information warfare which used to be an electronic warfare, cyber and perception management, as three different domains of warfare very recently."

1.38 In a supplementary List of Points on being asked about the brief account of the Army's preparedness in view of today's hybrid war, including kinetic and non-kinetic warfare, the Ministry replied as under:

"Indian Army remains fully prepared to address the evolving character of hybrid warfare, which encompasses both kinetic (conventional) and non-kinetic (cyber, electronic, information and space enabled dimensions). Inputs with respect to '**Army's preparedness in view of today's hybrid war, including kinetic and non-kinetic warfare**' are given in succeeding paragraphs.

Kinetic Preparedness. The Army maintains a high state of operational readiness along all active borders through sustained training, realistic field exercises, infrastructure development, and capability enhancement. Modernisation efforts include induction of advanced weapon systems, precision munitions, networked communications, surveillance platforms and improved mobility assets. Sustained force **modernization and re- structuring** initiatives allowed raising of new structures, organisations. Validation of concepts in theatre-level exercises have enhanced rapid mobilisation and combined arms synergy.

Non-Kinetic Capabilities. Recognising the growing salience of hybrid threats, the Army has strengthened its capabilities in **cyber defence, electronic warfare, spectrum management**, counter-drone systems, and information operations. Dedicated cyber and electronic warfare units have been operationalised, and secure communication networks have been enhanced to ensure resilience against cyber and electronic attacks. The Army is also leveraging artificial intelligence, data analytics and indigenous research and development to enhance situational awareness and decision superiority.

Counter-Drone and Emerging Technologies. In view of the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems, **integrated counter-drone grids** and electronic counter-measure systems have been progressively deployed. Emphasis is being placed on indigenous development and induction of niche technologies in coordination with defence research organisations and industry.

Jointness and Multi-Domain Operations. Preparedness is further reinforced through joint training and operational synergy with Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. The Army is aligned with the national vision for Multi-Domain Operations, ensuring coordinated employment of land, air, cyber, space and information capabilities.

Civil-Military Cooperation. The Army works in close coordination with other government agencies and national security stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response mechanism to hybrid threats, including information warfare and cyber contingencies.

Indian Army remains vigilant and future-ready, with balanced investments in conventional strength and emerging non-kinetic capabilities to effectively counter hybrid threats."

1.39 With regard to role of military diplomacy in Army, the CDS apprised the Committee as under:-:

> "As far as the role of military diplomacy is concerned, it is a new thing and to play a role of an exporter, we have reshuffled our Defence Attaches. There were large number of Attaches in the countries which were importing equipment. They have been withdrawn and now have been distributed to those countries where defence equipment is likely to be exported. इनको एक डिफेंस अटैची, जो डीपीएसयूज़ का ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा है, चाहे वह प्राइवेट सेक्टर हो या डीपीएसयू हो। इसलिए वह सभी का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, केवल गवर्नमेंट सेक्टर का ही नहीं। इस तरह के निर्देश उन्हें दिए जा चुके हैं। ऑपरेशनल कमांड की अभी तैयारी चल रही है, अभी एस्टेब्लिश नहीं हुए हैं। यह हो सकता है कि हम अगले कुछ समय में इसे ऑपरेशनलाइज करें। सीडीएस का जो स्ट्रक्चर था, जो एक परमानेंट चेयरमैन चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ है, वह ऑपरेशन सिंदूर उपयोग में आया है।"

<u>Role of Army during disaster/natural calamities and foreign deployment</u>

1.40 With regard to providing relief measures during natural disaster and calamities, the representative of Army submitted as under:

> "….इंडियन आर्मी अपनी एक्सटेंसिव ऑपरेशनल कमिटमेंट्स के बावजूद मानवीय सहायता और आपदा राहत में हमेशा सबसे आगे रहती है। वर्ष 2025 के दौरान भारतीय सेना ने 10 राज्यों में 80 से अधिक जगहों पर 141 कॉलम, जिनमें इंजीनियर टास्क फोर्सेज भी तैनात थीं, इस दौरान 28,293 नागरिकों को रेस्क्यू किया गया तथा लगभग 7,318 लोगों को मेडिकल ऐड प्रदान की गई। इसके अतिरिक्त साइक्लोन दितवाह के कारण श्रीलंका में उत्पन्न मानवीय संकट के जवाब में मेडिकल और इंजीनियरिंग स्टॉफ सहित 133 इंडियन आर्मी पर्सनल अभी भी वहां तैनात हैं।
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> Presently, Indian Army has deployed approximately 5,000 military personnel with 5 infantry battalions and 11 formed units, apart from staff officers and military observers, across 10 UN missions. India, leveraging its seven decades of exemplary service in UN-peacekeeping missions positioned itself at the forefront of peacekeeping by hosting the UN Troop Contributing Countries Chiefs' Conclave, 2025 from 13th to 16th October, 2025 at New Delhi. The event brought together army chiefs, senior military leaders, policy experts and UN officials from 32 troop-contributing

nations. Some of the major joint exercises with friendly foreign countries are depicted on the slide."

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CHAPTER II

AIR FORCE

The Indian Air Force is vital component of India's national security, providing significant aerospace power that plays a key role in deterring conflicts and maintaining peace. The Air Force leverages the airpower of the Armed Forces. For effective command and control, the IAF has various commands, under which there are different stations and units located at various places throughout the country. Humanitarian assistance during disaster relief is another vital and momentous role of the Indian Air Force. The budgetary demands for the Air Force are contained in Demand Nos.19 and 20.

2.2 The Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure for the Air Force during the last five years including 2025-26, separately for the Capital and Revenue segments along with projection and allocation in the BE 2026-27. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	44,992.90	30,652.53	48,816.59	34,283.02	34,375.46
2022-23	50,692.44	32,873.46	54,997.72	44,728.10	45,667.16
2023-24	68,081.58	44,345.58	56,565.41	56,272.10	53,024.92
2024-25	60,847.17	46,223.49	55,332.23	50,376.77	49,331.66
2025-26	66,530.27	53,700.00	66,765.18	63,100.00	39,316.54
2026-27	71,889.04	63,150.00	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	77,140.56	53,214.77	71,176.39	53,214.77	53,217.19
2022-23	85,322.60	56,851.55	56,264.54	53,871.17	44,917.78
2023-24	58,808.48	58,268.71	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
2024-25	59,062.07	59,062.07	59,062.07	47,766.14	51,426.19
2025-26	64,811.68	64,811.68	64,811.68	64,811.68	50,675.77
2026-27	88,809.97	88,809.97	-	-	-

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(ii) RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary 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 Air Force. In Budget Estimates (BE) for Financial Year 2026-27, against Revenue Head, projection of Air Force has been Rs. 71,889.04 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 63,150.00 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for Financial Year 2025-26, under Revenue head, Air Force's projection was Rs. 66,765.18 crore and allocation made was Rs. 63,100.00 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 3,665.18 crore. However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 39,316.54 crore during FY 2025-26.

Capital Budget

Capital Budget mainly provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in Budget Estimate for Financial Year 2026-27, Air Force's projection was Rs. 88,809.97 crore and the same was allotted to it. In RE, 2025-26 the projection of Air Force was Rs. 64,811.68

and the same was allotted However, the expenditure incurred Rs. 50,675.77 crore in Financial Year 2025-26.

2.3 During the deliberations on Demands for Grants 2026-27, the representative of the Indian Air Force while deposing before the Committee stated:

> "…..वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-2027 में आईएएफ के डिफेंस बजट एलोकेशन में 18 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। The bifurcation of the budget into capital and revenue is projected here. The capital budget is generally 52 per cent of the total budget allotment. Expenditure on domestic procurement has increased over a period of time, and it was close to 90 per cent in both the previous financial year and the current year, against the mandated target of 77 per cent. कैपिटल बजट में 37 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गयी है। इसमें से 40 प्रतिशत नई योजनाओं के लिए ईयरमार्क किया गया है।
>
> Close to 7 per cent of the budget is used for infrastructure development. The capital acquisition and infrastructure development budget has seen a positive increase over a period of time."

Percentage Share of Air Force Budget

2.4 The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Air Force budget (both Revenue and Capital) out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Air Force (Revenue)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Air Force (Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Air Force (Revenue + Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,47,088.28	30,652.53	8.83	53,214.77	15.33	83,867.30	24.16
2022-23	3,85,370.15	32,873.46	8.53	56,851.55	14.75	89,725.01	23.28
2023-24	4,32,720.14	44,345.58	10.25	58,268.71	13.47	102,614.29	23.71
2024-25	454,772.67	46,223.49	10.16	59,062.07	12.99	105,285.56	23.15
2025-26	4,91,732.30	53,700.00	10.92	64,811.68	13.18	1,18,511.68	24.10

2026-27	5,84,785.45	63,150.00	10.80	88,809.97	15.19	1,51,959.97	25.99

2.5 Further, details of expenditure incurred by Air Force under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years (including FY 2025-26) are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Air Force (Revenue)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Air Force (Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Air Force (Revenue + Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,66,545.91	34,375.46	9.38	53,217.19	14.52	87,592.65	23.90
2022-23	3,99,123.44	45,667.16	11.44	44,917.78	11.25	90,584.94	22.70
2023-24	4,44,699.20	53,024.92	11.92	60,757.63	13.66	1,13,782.54	25.59
2024-25	4,50,732.91	49,331.66	10.94	51,426.19	11.41	1,00,757.85	22.35
2025-26	3,74,701.08	39,316.54	10.49	50,675.77	13.52	89,992.31	24.02

Note:

(i) DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories/DoO(C&S), NCC, & DGQA Budget.

(ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(iii) RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

2.6 In the supplementary List of Points, when asked about priority avenues that have been identified for development during the current FY in view of definite increase in capital share of Air Force in the FY 2026-27, the Ministry replied as under:

"There is an increase of 37.03% in IAF Capital Budget as compared to BE 2025-26. The allotted funds are planned to be utilized against some of the major New Schemes like MRFA, Combat Enablers (AEW&C MK1A), MTA, Male RPA etc, in addition to the ongoing committed Liabilities."

2.7 It can be seen from above that there is an increase in percentage share of Revenue Budget of Air Force, out of Defence Services Estimates from 8.83 per cent in 2021-22 to 10.80 per cent in 2026-27. At the same time, there is a decrease in capital budget share from 15.33 percent in 2021-22 to 15.19 percent in 2026-27. However, the overall percentage has been increased from 24.16 per cent to 25.99 per cent during the same time period.

2.8 The Committee desired to know as to whether any adjustments were made due to the reduced allocation, if any, in Revenue and Capital Budget during the last five years including FY 2025-26, the data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:-

A. REVENUE (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	43,904.17	29,962.66	44,605.21	31,742.07	32,825.23
2021-22	44,992.90	30,652.53	48,816.59	34,283.02	34,375.46
2022-23	50,692.44	32,873.46	54,997.72	44,728.10	45,667.16
2023-24	68,081.58	44,345.58	56,565.41	56,272.10	53,024.91
2024-25	60,847.17	46,223.49	55,332.23	50,376.77	49,331.66
2025-26	66,530.27	53,700.00	66,765.18	63,100.00	39,316.54

B. CAPITAL (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2020-21	66,207.29	43,281.91	72,955.18	55,083.91	58,207.95
2021-22	77,140.56	53,214.77	71,176.39	53,214.77	53,217.19
2022-23	85,322.60	56,851.55	56,264.54	53,871.17	44,917.78
2023-24	58,808.48	58,268.71	58,268.71	58,500.51	60,757.63
2024-25	59,062.07	59,062.07	59,062.07	47,766.14	51,426.19
2025-26	64,811.68	64,811.68	64,811.68	64,811.68	50,675.77

Note: (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.
(ii) RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

2.9 It may be seen from the above tables that there has been consistent rise in allocation at BE stage under both Revenue and Capital Heads. RE Allocation were based on pace of expenditure, committed liabilities of Air Force and overall resource envelope available under Capital Head. The allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and urgent and critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services and additional funds, if required, were provided at MA stage to meet the requisite expenditure. Requisite actions are being taken to ensure optimum utilization of fund during the current financial year.

<u>Budget for Modernization</u>

2.10 The Ministry have informed the Committee, that in FY 2025-26, Air Force has been allocated Rs. 59,646.83 crore and Rs. 60,352.66 crore at BE and RE stage respectively, under Capital Acquisition(Modernisation) Head. Against these allocations, expenditure stands at Rs. 48,182.18 crore till December, 2025. Further, surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year 2025-26. However, MoD is regularly reviewing the status of expenditure and taking necessary action for its optimum utilization during the current financial year.

2.11 Further, in BE 2026-27, an amount of Rs. 83,257.47 crore has been allocated to Air Force under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

Note: RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

2.12 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about modernization activities that have been undertaken by the Air Force in FY 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:

"An amount of Rs. 54,123.91 crore (89.58%) has been utilized under the IAF Capital Acquisition Budget as on 17.02.2026."

2.13 In an another supplementary List of Points when asked whether Air Force would be able to spend the remaining amount till the end of FY 2025-26 i.e. upto 31 March, 2026, the Ministry replied **that IAF will be able to utilize its allotted budget for the Current Financial Year.**

2.14 Further, when enquired about percentage of Modernisation Budget that has been earmarked for committed liabilities and new schemes, the Ministry replied that **an amount of Rs. 41,753.96 crore (69.18%) and Rs. 18,598.70 crore (30.81%) has been earmarked against ongoing Committed Liabilities and New Schemes, respectively.**

2.15 Air Force had not sought additional allocations at any of the Supplementary stages in FY 2024-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

2.16 Further, Air Force had sought an additional allocation of Rs. 705.83 crore at first supplementary stage in FY 2025-26 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. However, the same has been met through savings available under the Other Than Capital Acquisition Head of Air Force.

2.17 Details of additional requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the years 2024-25 and 2025-26 are as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection at RE over BE	RE Allocation
2024-25	54,569.91	54,945.44	375.53	43,736.15
2025-26	59,646.83	60,352.66	705.83	60,352.66

2.18 Details of requirements projected by Air Force under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 are as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2024-25	43,736.15	47,967.70	4,231.55	47,967.70
2025-26	60,352.66	NA		

2.19 The Committee have been apprised that the allocated funds were optimally utilized to ensure operational preparedness and urgent and critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note: RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

2.20 During oral evidence, on the issue of modernization, the representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee as under:

" …..The capital budget earmarked for modernization will primarily be utilized for acquiring combat platforms and critical combat enablers like multi-role fighter aircraft, flight refuellers, medium transport aircraft, and various unmanned aerial systems. Along with the platforms, there is also a proposal to acquire air-to-air, air-to-ground, and surface-to-air guided ammunition, as well as loitering munitions.

कम्युनिकेशंस के लिए जीसैट-7सी सैटेलाइट के द्वारा हमारे ऑपरेशन्स पूरी तरह इंटिग्रेटेड हो जाएंगे। नए एक्वीजीशंस के साथ युद्ध के समय की अर्जेन्ट रिक्वायरमेंट्स की पूर्ति के लिए किए जाने वाले इमरजेंसी प्रोक्योरमेंट्स भी इसी बजट के द्वारा पूरे किए जाते हैं। इन सभी प्लेटफॉर्म्स और सिस्टम्स के लिए इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की रिक्वायरमेंट होती है......

.... रक्षा मंत्री जी के आदेशानुसार रक्षा सचिव की अध्यक्षता में बनायी गयी एम्पॉवर्ड कमेटी से आईएएफ की कैपिब्लिटीज़ रिक्वायरमेंट्स को पूरी करने में मदद मिल रही है। इंडस्ट्री और एकैडमिया के साथ हुए एम.ओ.यू. से रिसर्च और इन्नोवेशन्स को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। Thirty-nine airfields and nine Advance Landing Grounds are listed under the joint user category to promote civil aviation in India and are key to the Government's endeavour to provide last-mile connectivity through "Mission UDAN". We have promoted flexible use of airspace to save time and reduce emissions.

Further, the CDS apprised the Committee as under:

……..सिक्स जेनरेशन के एयरक्राफ्ट के लिए दो तरह की कंसोर्टियम काम कर रही हैं। इसमें एक यूके, इटली और जापान का कंसोर्टियम है और दूसरा, फ्रांस और जर्मनी का कंसोर्टियम है। ये दोनों एयरक्राफ्ट बना रहे हैं। इस मामले में हम पीछे न रहें, इसके लिए हम कोशिश करेंगे कि किसी एक कंसोर्टियम के साथ जुड़ कर सिक्स जेनरेशन फाइटर के बारे में अभी से सोच-विचार करें।

एएमसीए ने डिजाइन बना दिया है। अभी इसे कौन बनाएंगा, इसके ऊपर विचार चल रहा है। इसका स्टेटस अभी यहीं पर है…”

…….ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के जो लेशन्स हैं, वे इनकॉरपोरेट किए जा रहे हैं। पहले जो 126 एमएमआरसी एयरक्राफ्ट लिये गये थे, उसकी जगह अभी 114 राफेल के लिए डीएसी ने अप्रूवल दिया है। इसके बाद इस पर कार्रवाई शुरू होगी। अभी इसके बारे में कुछ भी कहना प्रीमैच्योर रहेगा। अभी इसका सिर्फ डीएसी का अप्रूवल हुआ है।

Planning and Procurement

2.21 As regards details of acquistions planned for the years 2026-27 and 2027-28, the Ministry through written reply furnished the following details of major schmes planned for acquisition in FY 2026-27 and 2027-28. The Ministry further stated that the the schemes are being pursued and are at various stages of procurement cycle.

2.22 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about target dates that have been finalized, proposed dates for acquisitions of mentioned schemes and the amount likely to be incurred on the acquisitions planned for the year 2026-27, the Ministry replied as under:

“IAF acquisition plan is arrived at on a financial year basis. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 83,257.47 crore has been earmarked for IAF Capital Acquisition cases in FY 2026-27. This include New Schemes as well as Committed Liabilities and expenditure will be spread over the FY 2026-27, based on competition of pre-contractual obligations for respective Schemes.”

2.23 On being asked about the details of the acquistions made by Air Force from indigenous sources, the Ministry in its written reply furnished the following details of the schemes procured from indigenous sources during the last five years including FY 2025-26 (upto Dec. 24)-

“The details of IAF capital acquisition expenditure from domestic sources is as under-

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE OF IAF CAPITAL ACQUISITION FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES

(**Rs. Cr**)

FY	Domestic Expenditure
2021-22	29,911.37
2022-23	28,539.13
2023-24	29,441.12
2024-25	42,593.85
2025-26	43,469.34

2.24 The Committee further enquired about the funds dedicated for acquisition from indigenous sources during FY 2026-27, the Ministry through written reply submitted that specific percentage share of budget for acquisition from indigenous sources, out of the allotted SBE for FY 2026-27 is under finalization.

Atmanirbharta / Indigenization

The Committee learn that Indian Air Force is committed towards self-reliance and is providing full-fledged support to the national objectives. In order to spearhead innovation and indigenisation, the Indian Air Force has formed a new directorate, named Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD). This directorate actively interacts with industries, R&D institutions and academia to ascertain niche technologies in aerospace domain and evolve modus operandi to convert them into tactical and strategic war fighting solutions utilising indigenous resources.

2.25 During the oral evidence, the representative of the Air Force on the topic of indigenous upgradation of aircrafts, apprised the Committee as under:

> “ “…..When it comes to Atmanirbharta, the IAF’s stress on self-reliance dates back to 1958, when Kanpur-1 was conceived and built at the Air Force Station in Kanpur. Thereafter, from Marut

to Tejas, Dhruv to Prachand, भारतीय वायु सेना आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध रही है।

वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-2025 और वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष में भी हमने एलोकेेटेड कैपिटल बजट का तकरीबन 90 प्रतिशत एक्सपेंडिचर डोमेस्टिक रिसोर्सेज पर किया है। हमने प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्रीज़ के साथ कुछ मेजर एक्वीजीशन कॉन्ट्रैक्ट्स भी साइन किए हैं। हमारे iDEX, TDF and Make cases ने डिफेंस मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग के इको सिस्टम में 13,000 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा की बिजनेस ऑपोर्च्यूनिटीज़ जेनरेट की है।

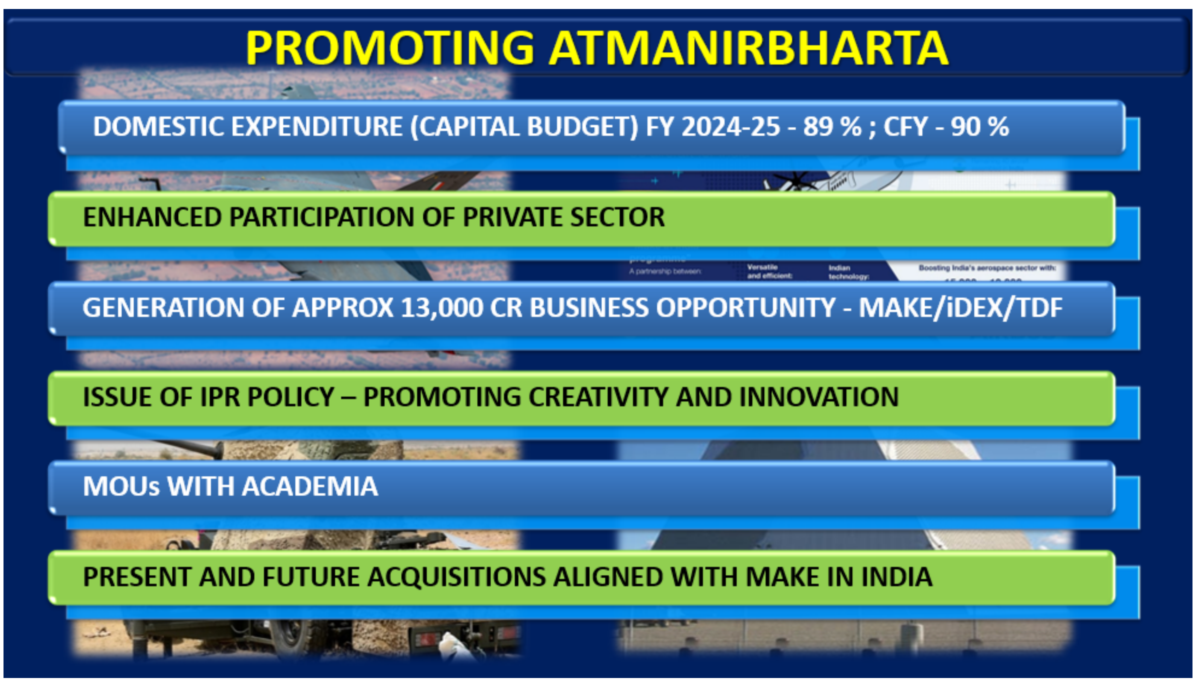
आईएएफ ने एक आईपीआर पॉलिसी भी प्रकाशित की है, जो भारत के मिशन ज्ञान शक्ति से एलाइंड है। इससे क्रिएटिविटी और इन्नोवेशन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। हमारे वर्तमान और भविष्य के मेजर एक्वीजीशन प्रोजेक्ट्स, जैसे Multirole fighter aircraft, medium transport aircraft and unmanned aerial systems पूरी तरह से 'मेक-इन-इंडिया' इनिशिएटिव्स पर आधारित हैं।.

…. To minimize the effect of geo-political uncertainties and achieve supply chain resilience, defence sector may progressively डिफेंस सेक्टर में प्रोग्रेसिव्ली आत्मनिर्भर होना समय की जरूरत है। इन प्रयासों में वर्ष 2035 तक 'ऐमका' लड़ाकू विमान एक इंफ्लेक्शन प्वायंट सिद्ध होगा, जो एयरोस्पेस से जुड़ी कुछ क्रीटिकली नीश टेक्नोलाॅजीज़ को भी स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित करने में हमारी मदद करेगा।

……….मैं माननीय सदस्यों को यह आश्वासन देना चाहता हूं कि आईएएफ देश की सुरक्षा और राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध है और आत्मनिर्भरता को अपनाते हुए यह एक विकसित और सुरक्षित भारत के लक्ष्य के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।”

2.26 During oral evidence, on the efforts made towards *Atmanirbharta*, the Ministry through presentation apprised the Committee about various advancements and versions of fighter aircafts and helicopters as under:

Further, the representative of the Ministry through presentation also apprised the Committee towards initiatives for *Atmanirbharta*:



<u>Combat capabilities of IAF</u>

2.27 During oral evidence, on the issue of combat capabilities, the representative of the Air Force submitted as under: -

“हमारे रोल्स एंड फंक्शंस में लड़ाई के दौरान दुश्मन के वाइटल एरियाज़ और सेंटर ऑफ ग्रेविटी पर ऑफेंस स्ट्राइक करना और हर समय भारतीय एयर स्पेस को डिफेंड करना शामिल है। यह रोल हम साल के हर दिन और दिन के हर घंटे निभाते हैं। इन दोनों कार्यों को सपोर्ट करने के लिए, दुश्मन के ठिकानों का पता लगाना, उसके लिए इंटलीजेंस सर्विलेंस और अपनी फौज को एक युद्ध क्षेत्र से दूसरे क्षेत्र में रिलोकेट करने के लिए एयर ट्रांसफर ऑपरेशंस जैसी अहम भूमिकाएं हैं। इन सभी रोल्स में आर्मी और नेवी के साथ कॉर्डिनेटेड ऑपरेशंस में आईएएफ का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहता है।

In the current financial year, the IAF has flown more than two lakh flying hours. Coming to combat capabilities, the fighter aircraft remains the main instrument of prosecuting the air war and conversely, for air defence too. यह जहाज एयर टू एयर और एयर टू सरफेस वेपन्स के साथ सेल्फ प्रोटेक्शन से युक्त हैं। ये दुश्मन के टारगेट्स को सटीकता के साथ न्यूट्रलाइज करने की क्षमता रखते हैं। हम अपनी कॉम्बेट कैपेबिलिटी को बरकरार रखने के लिए नए जहाजों के प्रोक्योरमेंट और अपग्रेडेशन पर काम कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा एलसीए मार्क2 और 'ऐमका' के डीएनडी में भी आईएएफ पूरी तरह से साझेदारी निभा रहा है। कॉम्बेट कैपेबिलिटी रखने वाले हेलिकॉप्टर्स में अपाचे, प्रचंड, एएलएच मार्क4 भी आईएएफ में पूरी तरह ऑपरेशनल हो चुके हैं। इनके अलावा सरफेस से सरफेस मिसाइल्स जैसे ब्रह्मोस और अंडर डेवलपमेंट प्लेस सिस्टम्स के साथ लाइट एमिनेशंस भी हमारी मारक क्षमता को बढ़ाते हैं।

The Indian Air Force is responsible for air defence of the Indian airspace. More than thirty lakh aircraft are closely monitored by our radar network every year. This onerous responsibility is executed while ensuring required flexibility for civil traffic.

Critical Combat Enablers like Airborne Early Warning Aircraft, flight refuellers, and special Electronic Intelligence and surveillance platforms, यह वर्तमान युद्ध में बहुत आवश्यक हैं। ये सिस्टम्स हमारी इंटलीजेंस और बैटल फील्ड ट्रांसपैरेंसी को तो बढ़ाते ही हैं, साथ ही आधुनिक युद्ध के इलेक्ट्रोनिक ऑर्डर ऑफ बैटल की जानकारी भी कमांडर्स को देते हैं। ये सभी कॉम्बेट इनेब्लर्स तीनों सेनाओं की युद्ध क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए अत्यंत कारगर प्लेटफॉर्म्स हैं।

2.28 During oral evidence, on the role of IAF in space capabilities, the representative of the Air Force submitted as under: -

"…….स्पेस डोमेन एक महत्वपूर्ण फोर्स एनेब्लर है, इसलिए वायु सेना ने अपने कार्ॅलेज ऑफ एयर वॉर फेयर में एक स्पेस ट्रेनिंग सेल का गठन किया है, जो एक नोडल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर बन गया है।

……नियर स्पेस आज के समय में युद्ध क्षमता को प्रभावित करने वाला एक कारगर डोमेन है। नियर स्पेस ऑपरेशंस के लिए आईएफ डॉक्टरेन भी अंडर प्रिपरेशन है। एयर डिफेंस को और प्रभावशाली बनाने के लिए सभी सेनाओं और सिविल एविएशन के एसेट्स को इंटीग्रेट किया जा चुका है।

…. अंतरिक्ष मेंं भारत के मानव मिशन में ऐतिहासिक रूप से वायु सेना का योगदान रहा है। पहले भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्री स्क्वैड्रन लीडर राकेश शर्मा से लेकर हाल ही में ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुक्ला तक हमारे पायलट्स ने कठिन ट्रेनिंग के बाद यह उपलब्धि हासिल की है। ग्रुप कैप्टन शुक्ला इंटरनेशनल स्पेस स्टेशन जाने वाले पहले भारतीय हैं। भारत के गगनयान मिशन में भी चार पायलट्स की एक टीम अभी अण्डर ट्रेनिंग है, जो भविष्य में इस मिशन को एग्ज़क्यूट करेगी।

….. वायु सेना भविष्य के 2-फ्रंट वॉर सिनैरियो के लिए तैयार रहने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। Future wars will be fought through multidomain operations in an integrated environment. Round the clock ISR इन ऑपरेशन्स का आधार होती है, जिसके द्वारा कॉम्प्रिहैन्सिव एयर डिफेंस सुनिश्चित किया जा सकता है।

Further, CDS on space capabilities apprised the Committee as under:

"…सबसे पहले गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया स्पेस सेक्टर को ओपन किया है। अभी हम एयरोस्पेस की बात कर रहे हैं। एयरोस्पेस के संबंध में एयरफोर्स की जो जिम्मेवारी है, वह करीब 20 किलोमीटर रेंज तक होती है। अभी हम उसके नियर स्पेस को भी इसके साथ शामिल करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि काफी सारे हाइपरसोनिक बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल इस रेंज में उड़ती हैं। इसलिए उनको निष्क्रिय करने के लिए हमें काम करना पड़ेगा। स्पेस की जो कैपेबिलिटीज है, जिसे हम निर्धारित करना चाहते हैं, वह आईएसआर, पोजिशन एंड टाइमिंग और कम्युनिकेशन की है। इसे डिफेंस स्पेस एजेंसी देखती है।

सर, स्पेस की जो कैपेबिलिटीज हैं, जिसे हम निर्धारित करना चाहते हैं, वह आईएसआर, पोजिशन एंड टाइमिंग और कम्युनिकेशन की है। इसे डिफेंस स्पेस एजेंसी देखती है। इसके बजट में काफी इज़ाफा भी हुआ है। इसको पिछले प्रेजेंटेशन में दिखाया गया है। स्पेस में जो कैपेबिलिटीज हैं, ऑविअस्ली प्राइवेट सेक्टर कंपनीज के साथ मिल कर बनाना चाहते हैं।"

Joint operational training and exercises

2.29 During oral evidence, on the issue of joint operational training and exercises, the representative of the Air Force submitted as under: -

"…….IAF regularly undertakes joint exercises with other services to validate procedures for joint operations.

…..भारतीय वायु सेना 6 इंटिग्रेटेड वर्किंग ग्रुप्स को लीड कर रहा है, जिनमें हॉक, प्रचंड, अपाचे, डॉर्नियर और आकाश मिसाइल सिस्टम शामिल है। इसके साथ-साथ साइबर और ई.डब्ल्यू. ट्रेनिंग के लिए भी आईएएफ लीड सर्विस है।

……Apart from its own Air Force and Command-level exercises, the IAF regularly conducts joint operational training with friendly nations. As a result, air power becomes a potent tool for soft power projection. This year, the IAF has conducted a number of transoceanic bilateral and multilateral exercises, both within and outside the country. You can see the first landing of a C-17 military transport aircraft at Kargil Airport for the first time, which will provide faster mobility and resupply for the Indian Army…..

Modernization of Airfileds by IAF

2.30 The Committee desired to know the budgetary allocation and actual expenditure incurred for modernization of airfields, the Ministry through a written reply intimated:-

"Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure (MAFI) project has been executed in two phases. The details of the budgetary allocation are as follows:

(a) Under Phase- I **Rs 1215.35** Cr was allotted, MAFI Phases-I project has been completed in December 2019 with modernisation of 30 airfields and all payments effected.

(a) Under Phase- II, a total budget of **Rs 1187.17 Cr** has been allotted, in which IAF share of budget (including ARC bases) is **867 Cr.** IAF has incurred a total expenditure of **Rs. 1118.44 Cr (including GST & Custom Duty and Foreign Exchange Rate Variation)** till 30 April, 2025."

2.31 Further, on future plans for the modernization of airfileds, the Ministry through its written reply apprised the Committee as under:-

"The modernization of airfields under Project MAFI has been completed at the IAF.".

2.32 With regard to number of airfields presently in use alongwith their modernization status, the Ministry through written reply apprised the Committee as under:-

"There are 52 modernised airfields presently in use, out of which 6 modernised airfields are in North-Eastern part of India. This apart, one new airport is under construction."

2.33 In the supplementary List of Points when asked whether the existing airfields are equipped with to meet operational requirement relating to hybrid warfare system including kinetic and non kinetic warfare, the Ministry replied as under:

"1. Yes, IAF is trained and equipped to meet any kind of emerging threat. Upgradation of airfield infrastructure and security has been of paramount importance. Integrated Perimeter Security System (IPSS) has executed at all important IAF bases, including border areas.

2. The IAF personnel are also trained to meet emerging challenges in kinetic domain, cyber challenges, communication domain, Electronic/ISR domain and Antidrone capabilities.

3. The strength and preparedness of IAF to meet any misadventure by its adversaries has been amply proven and

demonstrated by the resolute response and robust posture of IAF in recent times."

Women empowerment

2.34 During the deliberations on the topic of women empowerment, the representative of Air Force submitted as under:

"वायु सेना की सभी ब्रांचेज, जिनमें in which combat platforms are also included, उनमें महिलाएं अपना योगदान दे रही हैं।"

Preparedness for internal security

2.35 On the issue of preparedness in internal security, the representative of the Air Force submitted as under:

" वायु सेना समय-समय पर आंतरिक सुरक्षा की ड्यूटी में भी सहायता करती है और यह नक्सल विरोधी टास्क फोर्स का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग है, जिसने नक्सल कॉरिडोर के सफाये में एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है। इसके अतिरिक्त एमएचए के काउंटर-यूएएस मैकेनिज्म में वायु सेना के द्वारा दी गयी ट्रेनिंग प्रभावी योगदान दे रही है।

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

2.36 During oral evidence, with regard to human assistance and disaster relief operations, a representative of the Air Force submitted as under:-

"इस वर्ष देश में आई प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में वायु सेना ने रिलीफ मैटेरियल्स पहुंचाने के अलावा इन इलाकों से लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर ले जाने का कार्य कुशलता से किया। 145 टन से ज्यादा की राहत सामग्री पहुंचाने के साथ-साथ दो हजार से ज्यादा लोगों को इन मिशन्स के द्वारा बचाया गया।

HADR has not been limited to our national boundary due to prevailing geo-political situations, भारतीय नागरिकों को संकटग्रस्त इलाकों से सुरक्षित निकाला गया, जो हमारी मोबिलिटी, रीच और रिस्पॉन्सिवनेस का प्रमाण है। इन मिशन्स के द्वारा 500 टन से ज्यादा की राहत सामग्री पहुंचाई गयी है और 2,800 से ज्यादा नागरिकों को बचाया भी गया है।"

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CHAPTER III

NAVY

India as a maritime nation located along critical international shiping routes in the Indian Ocean, relies heavily on its naval capabilities for international outreach, with 95% of its trade by volume transported *via* sea. Given the geopolitical challenges on its land borders, the Indian Navy (IN) plays a crucial role in maintaining security in the region and fostering peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Resgion (IOR). The IN faces evolving threats both conventional and sub-conventional sources, requiring continuous adaptation to safeguard maritime interests. To maintain high Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), the Navy deploys assets along critical sea routes and chokepoints. Additionally, in alignment with India's security vision- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)- the IN actively collaborates with partner nations in the IOR, enhancing their naval capabilities and strengthening maritime infrastructure through training, platform transfers, and technical assistance.

3.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Navy for the year 2025-26, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a Statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure for Navy during the last five years including 2025-26, separately for Capital and Revenue segments alongwith projection and allocation in the BE 2026-27. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

A. REVENUE (NET)

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	34,256.83	23,360.68	30,069.08	23,925.91	23,834.99
2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53
2024-25	40,649.26	32,778.73	36,666.42	35,687.31	32,735.23

2025-26	40,707.22	38,149.80	45,570.26	43,887.71	25,385.33
2026-27	49,888.61	46,800.00	-	-	-

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48
2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62
2024-25	62,545.98	62,545.98	62,953.79	62,192.98	52,012.34
2025-26	65,352.82	65,352.82	69,451.02	69,451.02	49,374.04
2026-27	70,063.31	70,063.31	-	-	-

Note:- (i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(ii) RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget comprises of two main components, salary and non-salary. Major portion of the budget head primarily goes for salary 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 Navy. In Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2026-27, against Revenue Head, projection of Navy was Rs. 49,888.61 crore and allocation to be made is Rs. 46,800.00 crore, with a reduction of Rs. 3,088.61 crore. In case of Revised Estimates (RE) for FY 2025-26, under Revenue head, Navy's projection was Rs. 45,570.26 crore and allocation made was Rs. 43,887.71 crore. The allocation is short of demand by Rs. 1,682.55 crore, However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2025-26 was Rs. 25,385.33 crore.

Capital Budget

The Capital budget cardinally provides for expenditure on modernisation, enhancement of force level, infrastructure development, etc. Under Capital Head, in BE for FY 2026-27, Navy's projection was Rs. 70,063.31 crore and the same has been allocated. In RE 2025-26, the projection of Navy was Rs. 69,451.02 crore and the same has been allocated. However, the expenditure incurred in FY 2025-26 was Rs. 49,374.04 crore.

3.3 During examination of Demand for Grants 2026-27, the representative of Indian Navy, through a presentation before the Committee on budget submitted the following information:

> "सर, वर्ष 2021 से नौसेना के बजट में लगातार वृद्धि देखी गई है और बजट घोषणा के अनुसार वर्ष 2026-27 में नौसेना का बजट लगभग 1 लाख 9 हजार 600 करोड़ रुपये का रहेगा। ऑरेंज कलर में दिखाया गया एक्सपेंडीचर जिस साल भी एलोकेशन से ज्यादा रहा है, उसे मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ फाइनेंस ने रिवाइज्ड एस्टिमेट में उपलब्ध करवाया है। कैपिटल बजट की एलोकेशन्स भी आवश्यकतानुसार बढ़ रही है और यह हमारी कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट की ओर फोकस को दर्शाता है।
>
> नौसेना का डोमेस्टिक टू फॉरेन कैपिटल एक्सपेंडीचर रेश्यो भी वर्ष 2020 से निरंतर बढ़ रहा है। डोमेस्टिक एक्सपेंडिचर में बढ़ोतरी सरकार की आत्मनिर्भरता के फोकस से एलाइन्ड है। नेवी की डे टू डे रनिंग और मेंटेनेंस पर होने वाले खर्च का भुगतान रेवेन्यू बजट से किया जाता है। वर्ष 2026-27 में रेवेन्यू बजट का आँकड़ा 42 हजार 700 करोड़ घोषित किया गया है और यह अनुमानित एक्सपेंडीचर के अनुकूल है। नौसेना ने हेल्दी कैपिटल टू रेवेन्यू रेश्यो अचीव किया है और इसे निरंतर इंप्रूव किया है। यह हमारी कैपेबिलिटी ड्रिवन एप्रोच का नतीजा है। भविष्य में कंसिस्टेंट बजटरी सपोर्ट नौसेना के सस्टेनेंस प्लान्ड ग्रोथ के लिए अनिवार्य है। हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि भारत की नौसेना आने वाले वर्षों में और भी सशक्त एवं सक्षम होगी।"

Percentage share of Navy Budget

3.4 The Committee desired to know the percentage share of the Navy budget in both Revenue and Capital segments out of the total Defence Budget during the last five years and share of allocation of Capital and Revenue outlay for the FY 2026-27. The data furnished by the Ministry of Defence is tabulated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Navy (Revenue)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Navy (Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,47,088.28	23,360.68	6.73	33,253.55	9.58	56,614.23	16.31
2022-23	3,85,370.15	25,406.42	6.59	47,590.99	12.35	72,997.41	18.94
2023-24	4,32,720.14	32,284.20	7.46	52,804.75	12.20	85,088.95	19.66
2024-25	454,772.67	32,778.73	7.21	62,545.98	13.75	95,324.71	20.96
2025-26	4,91,732.30	38,149.80	7.76	65,352.82	13.29	103,502.62	21.05
2026-27	5,84,785.45	46,800.00	8.00	70,063.31	11.98	1,16,863.31	19.98

3.5 The Ministry have further informed the details of expenditure incurred by Navy(including Jt. Staff) under Revenue and Capital Heads out of total expenditure incurred under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) for the last five years(including FY 2025-26) as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	DSE	Navy (Revenue)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Navy (Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE	Navy (Revenue + Capital)	%age share w.r.t. DSE
2021-22	3,66,545.91	23,834.99	6.50	45,028.64	12.28	68,863.63	18.79
2022-23	3,99,123.44	30,042.41	7.53	46,091.48	11.55	76,133.89	19.08
2023-24	4,44,699.20	34,261.53	7.70	50,762.62	11.42	85,024.15	19.12
2024-25	4,50,732.91	32,735.23	7.26	52,012.34	11.54	84,747.52	18.80
2025-26	3,74,701.08	25,385.33	6.77	49,374.04	13.18	74,759.37	19.95

Note:

(i) DSE includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, DRDO, Ordnance Factories/DoO(C&S), NCC, & DGQA Budget.

(ii) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.

(iii) BE 2026-27 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.6 It can be seen that there is an increase in percentage share of revenue budget of Navy, out of Defence Services Estimates from 6.73 per cent in 2021-22 to 8.00 per cent in 2026-27. At the same time, there is a increase in capital budget share from 9.58 percent in 2021-22 to 11.98 percent in 2026-27.

3.7 On the issue of adjustments due to reduced allocation in Revenue and Capital Budget, the Committee were apprised through a written submission as under:-

"Details regarding the projections and allocations in respect of Navy (including Joint Staff) during the last five years, separately under Revenue and Capital Heads, are as under:

A. REVENUE

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	34,256.83	23,360.68	30,069.08	23,925.91	23,834.99
2022-23	34,701.66	25,406.42	34,441.48	30,734.58	30,042.41
2023-24	36,605.04	32,284.20	36,776.65	35,150.53	34,261.53
2024-25	40,649.26	32,778.73	36,666.42	35,687.31	32,735.23
2025-26	40,707.22	38,149.80	45,570.26	43,887.71	25,385.33

B. CAPITAL

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	70,920.78	33,253.55	50,011.38	46,021.54	45,028.64
2022-23	67,622.96	47,590.99	47,727.03	47,727.03	46,091.48
2023-24	52,804.75	52,804.75	51,283.98	51,052.18	50,762.62
2024-25	62,545.98	62,545.98	62,953.79	62,192.98	52,012.34
2025-26	65,352.82	65,352.82	69,451.02	69,451.02	49,374.04

Note:- *(i) Expenditure figures in respect of FY 2025-26 are upto December, 2025.*

(ii) RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.8 The Committee have been informed in a written reply that is seen from the data provided above that there has been consistent increase in the allocations at RE stage in respect of Navy (including Joint Staff) under both Revenue and Capital Heads from FY 2021-22, onwards. It may also be seen that there has always been saving at the end of each aforementioned financial year. Hence, it may be concluded that sufficient funds were made available during the aforementioned years for expenditure by the services on various projects. Further, the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and urgent and critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Navy (including Joint Staff). Requisite actions are being taken to ensure optimum utilization of fund during the current financial year.

Budget for Modernization

3.9 The Committee were apprised that in FY 2025-26, Navy (including Jt. Staff) was allocated Rs. 62,975.97 crore and Rs. 67,236.23 crore at BE and RE stage respectively, under Capital

Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 48,187.57 crore has been incurred upto December, 2025. Surrender, if any, will be known at the time of finalization of Modified Appropriation (MA) stage of current financial year i.e. 2025-26. However, MoD is regularly reviewing the status of expenditure and taking necessary action for its optimum utilization during the current financial year.

3.10 In BE 2026-27, an allocation of Rs. 67,524.45 crore has been made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head.

Note: RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

3.11 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about modernization activities that have been undertaken by the Navy in FY 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:

> "The fund allocated to Navy under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head of Accounts was utilized to support several new schemes in addition to supporting committed liabilities covering ongoing cases. Significant new projects included (i) Contract for 26 Rafale-M Aircraft (ii) Follow on Support/Follow on Supply Support of MH60R Helicopters (iii) Heavy Weight Torpedoes For Scorpene class submarines, among other projects."

3.12 In an another supplementary List of Points when asked whether Navy would be able to spend the remaining amount till the end of FY 2025-26 i.e. upto 31 March, 2026, the Ministry replied as under:

> "Yes, complete utilization of allocated budget is being targeted by end of FY 2025-26, subject to contract conclusion of major new schemes which are at advance stages of approval. In BE 2026-

27, an allocation of Rs.67,524.45 Cr has been made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head. As on 31.01.2026, the utilization/booking of expenditure was 76%."

3.13 Also, in the supplementary List of Points when asked about percentage of modernization that has been earmarked for committee liabilities & new schemes, the Ministry replied as under:

"Out of the Modernization Budget, the Navy has been allocated Rs.47,748.31 Cr (73.57%) for Committed Liabilities, and Rs.17,146.28 Cr (26.43%) for New Schemes.

The value of the Acquisition made by the Navy from indigenous sources during the FY 2024-25 was Rs.8208.69 Cr. During the FY 2025-26, the contract value upto December, 2025 was Rs.688.28 Cr."

3.14 On being asked about the details of demand for additional funds made by Navy and the actual allocation provided to them at the supplementary/RE/MA stage during the years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

"Supplementary Stage:

Navy had not sought additional allocations in first supplementary in FY 2024-25 under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. However, Jt. Staff had sought additional allocation of Rs. 1,058.87 crore at first supplementary stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head and the same had been allocated.

(ii) In second supplementary, an amount of Rs. 2,518 crore had been provided to Navy as a token supplementary under Modernization (Capital Acquisition) Head in FY 2024-25.

(iii) In FY 2025-26, Navy had sought and was provided an additional allocation of Rs. 4,260.26 crore at first supplementary stage under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head.

RE Stage:

(iv) Details of additional requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at RE stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE Allocation	RE Projection	Additional projection made in RE over BE	RE Allocation
2024-25	58,700.00	60,519.68	1,819.68	59,758.87
2025-26	62,975.97	67,236.23	4,260.26	67,236.23

MA Stage:

(v) Details of requirements projected by Navy (including Jt. Staff) under modernization (Capital Acquisition) at MA stage and the allocation made during the financial years 2024-25 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	RE Allocation	MA Projection	Additional projection made in MA over RE	MA Allocation
2024-25	59,758.87	49,692.23	-10,066.64	49,692.23
2025-26	67,236.23	NA		

(vi) The allocated funds were optimally utilized and urgent & critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to the operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Note: RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

3.15 During oral evidence on Demand for Grants 2026-27, the representative of Indian Navy, on modernization submitted as under:

"एआई अडॉप्शन को इंस्टीट्यूशनलाइज्ड करने के उद्देश्य से since last three years, the Indian Navy Incubation Centre for Artificial Intelligence यानी INICAI निरंतर कार्यरत है। मार्च, 2025 में कमीशंड हमारे 24 जीपीयू वाले डेडिकेटेड कम्प्यूट सेंटर CRYSTAL का उपयोग एडवांस्ड एआई मॉडल्स के डेवलपमेंट, ट्रेनिंग तथा टेस्टिंग के लिए किया जा रहा है।"

3.16 When the Committee desired to know about the acquistion plans for the years 2026-27 and 2027-28, the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

"A summary of contract for the schemes likely to be signed during FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 are as follows:

Ser.	**Categories**	**Total Cost (in Crs.)**
1.	Warships and Survey Vessels	18,893.82
2.	Submarines and Refits of Submarines	42,698.00
3.	Aircrafts and maintenance of Aircrafts	81,263.93
4.	Weapons and Ammunitions	37,658.03
5.	Equipment and Vehicle	2742.30

Indigenisation

3.17 On being enquired about the details of the acquistions made by the Navy from indigenous sources during the last five years and the status of the outlay spent on indigenous acquisition, the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

"During the last five years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (up to 31 Dec 2025) Capital acquisition contracts for worth Rs. 97,488.21 Cr for Indian Navy were signed with the Indian vendors. Value of the Acquisition made by the Navy from Indigenous sources during the last five years as tabulated below:

Ser.	Financial Year	Contract Value (In Cr)
1.	2021-22	4527.91
2.	2022-23	32,860.75
3.	2023-24	51,202.58
4.	2024-25	8208.69
5.	2025-26 (upto Dec 25)	688.28
Total		**97,488.21**

Details of Financial outgo and Indigenous acquisitions are as tabulated below:-

Ser.	Financial Year	Financial Outgo (In Cr)
1.	2021-22	27,823.41
2.	2022-23	30,261.09
3.	2023-24	40,497.17
4.	2024-25	36,603.15
5.	2025-26 (upto Dec 25)	23,795.01
Total		**1,58,979.83**

3.18 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about the reasons for less Acquisition made by the Navy from Indigenous sources during the FY 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:

> "During the current financial year, two high value projects are in the advance stages of obtaining Approval. Conclusion of these two projects will significantly increase the quantum of acquisition made by the Navy from indigenous sources."

3.19 As desired by the Committee regarding the funds dedicated for acquisition from indigenous sources during FY 2026-27, the Ministry through written reply submitted as under: -

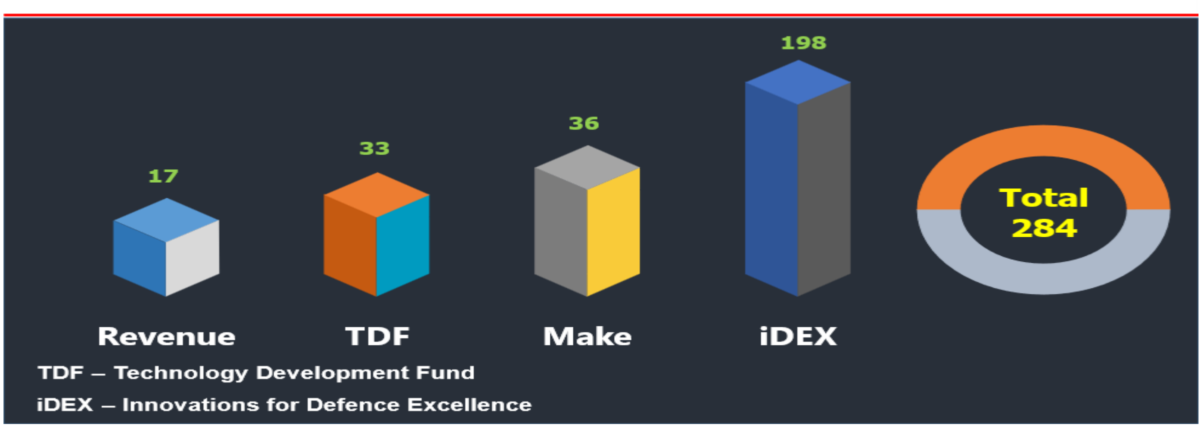
> "Though Ministry of Defence allocates % / share towards acquisition from Indigenous and Foreign Sources every year, however for FY 2026-27, this allocation would be promulgated by March, 2026."

3.20 During oral evidence, on the topic of indigenisation the representative of Indian Navy through a presentation, submitted as under:

<u>Indigenization in Shipbuilding</u>

Shipbuilding projects	**IC (Indigenious content)**
Delhi Class (1977)	42%
SVL Class (2010)	52%
KOL Class (2014)	57%
VSK Class (2021)	68%
Nilgiri Class (2022)	73%
Vikrant (2022)	76%

_IN_ Indigenisation Efforts



Further, the representative on indigenisation submitted as under:

"देश ने सेल्फ रिलायंस के क्षेत्र में अन्य राष्ट्रों के साथ गैप को ब्रिज करने में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है तथापि फॉरेन ओईएम्स पर निरंतर डिपेंडेंसी के कारण क्रिटिकल इंजन्स की नॉन अवेलिबिलिटी ने आगे की प्रक्रिया पर बाधा डाली है। इस चुनौती को ध्यान में रखते हुए भारतीय नौसेना ने इस विषय को मिशन मोड में लिया है। मेन प्रॉपल्सन सिस्टम के डेवलपमेंट से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण केसेस, जो Make-I तथा टेक्नोलॉजी डेवलपमेंट फंड स्कीम्स के अंतर्गत प्रगति पर हैं। जो स्क्रीन पर प्रदर्शित किए जा रहे हैं।

भारतीय नौसेना वर्षों से शिप बिल्डिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स में इंडिजीनस कंटेन्ट को निरंतर बढ़ाने की दिशा में कार्य कर रही है, जैसा कि स्क्रीन पर प्रदर्शित है, जो आईएनएस विक्रांत में लगभग 76 प्रतिशत तक पहुँच चुका है। वेपन्स और सेंसस के पूरे स्पेक्ट्रम में इंडिजिनाइजेशन बढ़ाने के लिए डीआरडीओ तथा इंडस्ट्री के साथ निरंतर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

आत्मनिर्भरता, नेवल वॉरफेयर के सभी डोमेन्स में भारतीय नौसेना की कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट की आधारशिला रहा है। आत्मनिर्भर भारत इनिशिएटिव के अंतर्गत नौसेना सक्रिय रूप से टीडीएफ (TDF) तथा आईडेक्स (iDEX) को प्रॉब्लम स्टेटमेंट प्रदान कर रही है। भारत सरकार की विभिन्न स्कीम्स के अंतर्गत नौसेना द्वारा प्रगति किए गए इंडिजिनाइजेशन केसेस की संख्या में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है, जो वर्ष 2019 में लगभग चार केसेस से बढ़कर वर्ष 2025 में 284 केसेस तक पहुँच गई है। आईडेक्स (iDEX) ईको सिस्टम में इंडियन नेवी का सबसे बड़ा योगदान 198 चुनौतियों का है, जो कुल चुनौतियों का लगभग 35 परसेंट है।

आवश्यक फोर्स लेवल को सस्टेन तथा ऑग्मेंट करने के उद्देश्य से वर्तमान में नौसेना के 50 जहाज अंडर कंस्ट्रक्शन हैं। उल्लेखनीय यह है कि ये सभी जहाज इंडियन शिपयार्ड्स में ही बनाए जा रहे हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त डीएसी द्वारा जिन प्रोजेक्ट्स को एक्सेप्टेंस ऑफ नेसेसिटी प्रदान की जा चुकी है और जो एक्विजिशन पाइपलाइन में है.........."

MANPOWER

3.21 The Committee when desired to know about the recruitment of Agniveer in the Indian Navy, the CDS submitted as under:

"…..Agniveer, as a scheme is applicable to all three services, that are, Army, Navy, and Air Force. अग्निवीर नेवी के लिए भी एप्लीकेबल है ….

Further, as regards empowerment of women in Indian Navy, the representative of Indian Navy submitted as under:

"भारतीय नौसेना नारी शक्ति को सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में ठोस कदम उठा रही है, जिसमें महिला ऑफिसर्स के एक्सपेंडेड रोल्स तथा उनके ऑपरेशनल इंटिग्रेशन पर विशेष बल दिया जा रहा है। वर्ष 2025 की एक उल्लेखनीय अचीवमेंट नाविका सागर परिक्रमा-II रही, जिसमें दो महिला ऑफिसर्स ने आईएनएसवी तारिणी पर अपनी ग्लोबल सर्कमनेविगेशन पूर्ण की।"

Operational Preparedness and Threat Perception

3.22 During the oral evidence, on the issue of operational preparedness as well as the threat perception the representative of Indian Navy through presentation submitted as under:

"कैबिनेट कमेटी ऑन सिक्योरिटी ने मैरिटाइम सिक्योरिटी के ओवरऑल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी भारतीय नौसेना को प्रदान की है। इसे भारतीय तट रक्षक बल और अन्य स्टेकहोल्डर्स के साथ क्लोज कोऑर्डिनेशन में निभाया जा रहा है। जैसा कि इस स्लाइड पर प्रदर्शित है कि नौसेना के चार मुख्य रोल है - मिलिट्री, डिप्लोमैटिक, कॉन्सटेबुलरी एंड बिनाइन। The various functions under each role have also been listed. इन फंक्शन्स की प्राप्ति के लिए नेवल फोर्सेज को समुद्र में निरंतर उपस्थिति बनाये रखते हुए ओवरलैपिंग मिशन्स पर डिप्लॉए किया जाता है।

ना ैसेना के इन रोल्स को प्रभावी ढंग से निभाने हेतु भारत के 11,100 किलोमीटर लम्बी कोस्टलाइन, 1,379 आइलैंड्स तथा 2.2 मिलियन्स वर्ग किलोमीटर के एक्सक्लूजिव इकोनॉमिक जोन को मेरीटाइम डोम्स अवेयरनेस के माध्यम से निरंतर मॉनिटर किया जाना आवश्यक है। यह मेरीटाइम डोमेन अवेयरनेस सभी नेवल ऑपरेशंस की बैकबोन के रूप में कार्य करता है। यह 247 इनटू 365 सभी पांच डोमेन्स में नेवल असेट्स के डिप्लॉयमेंट के माध्यम से सुनिश्चित किया जाता है।

As a result, in the past two years, Naval assets have remained at sea for about 16,000 days each year.

Additionally, the number of days away from own bases and harbours has also significantly increased."

3.23 With regard to anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations, it was further submitted by representative of Navy as under:

"नवम्बर, 2023 से भारतीय नौसेना ने 48 कैपिटल शिप्स गल्फ ऑफ एडेन में डिप्लॉय किए हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप 392 मर्चेंट वेसल्स पर लदे लगभग 165 लाख मीट्रिक टन्स कार्गो का सुरक्षित ट्रांजिट हुआ, जिसका अनुमानित आर्थिक मूल्य लगभग 7 बिलियन यूएस डॉलर्स है।

एंटी पायरेसी एफर्ट्स के अंतर्गत हजार से अधिक वेसेल्स की बोर्डिंग की गई तथा 62 पायरेट्स को पकड़ा गया। who were suitably dealt with, given the leverage provided by the Maritime Piracy Act of 2022. पिछले एक वर्ष में इस क्षेत्र में 170 से अधिक मेरीटाइम इंसिडेंट रिपोर्ट किए गए हैं। इनमें 570 से अधिक लोगों के जीवन की रक्षा की जा सकी है। In anti-narcotics operations undertaken in March 2025, इंडियन नेवी की फ्रंटलाइन फ्रिगेट आईएनएस तरकश ने पश्चिमी हिन्द महासागर में सफलतापूर्वक इंटरसेप्शन करते हुए ढाई हजार किलो ना ॅरकोटिक्स जब्त किए।

Further, CDS on the seized narcotics submitted as under:-

"...जो भी नेवी सीज़ करती है, वे सारी चीजें नार्कोटिक कंट्रोल बोर्ड को हैंडओवर की जाती हैं।"

Capability and Infrastructure Development

3.24 With respect to the capability and infrastructure development, it was submitted by representative of Navy as under:

"वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के दौरान कैपेबिलिटी डेवलपमेंट के लिए लगभग 1 लाख 42 हजार करोड़ रुपये की राशि के 100 केसेस को अब तक AoN अकॉर्ड की गई, जिनमें इमरजेंसी प्रोक्योरमेंट केसेस भी शामिल हैं। ये प्रोक्योरमेंट केसेस विभिन्न कैटेगरीज़ में बंटे हुए हैं, जैसा कि स्क्रीन पर दर्शाया गया है।

आगामी 11 वर्षों में इंडियन नेवी वर्तमान में 142 से लेकर वर्ष 2037 तक लगभग 230 शिप्स और समरीन्स के फोर्स लेवल तक पहुंचने का लक्ष्य रखती है। नेवल एविएशन को 264 एसेट्स की प्रेजेंट होल्डिंग से वर्ष 2030 तक लगभग 314 एसेट्स के रूप में विकसित करने की भी योजना है।"

Joint operations and exercise

3.25 With respect to joint operations by India Navy, the representative of Ministry submitted as under:

"भारतीय नौसेना की कैपस्टोन बाइनियल थिएटर लेवल ऑपरेशनल एक्सरसाइज (ट्रोपेक्स) 25 मार्च 2025 में कंडक्ट की गई। तीन महीने की अवधि में आयोजित इस एक्सरसाइज को मल्टीपल फेजेज में हॉर्बर और सी दोनों में कंडक्ट किया गया, जिसमें कॉम्बैट ऑपरेशंस के विभिन्न फैसेट्स, लाइव वेपन ड्रिल्स तथा एम्फीबियस एक्सरसाइज को इंटीग्रेट किया गया। इस एक्सरसाइज में नौसेना के लगभग सभी ऑपरेशनल कैपिटल शिप्स, सबमरीन्स और एयरक्राफ्ट्स के साथ-साथ इंडियन कोस्ट गार्ड के बड़ी संख्या में शिप्स, इंडियन एयरफोर्स के एयरक्राफ्ट और इंडियन आर्मी के ट्रूप्स ने भाग लिया।

Immediately after TROPEX, during Operation Sindoor के दौरान इंडियन नेवी हर संभावित विकसित होती स्थिति का सामना करने के लिए पूर्ण रूप से तैयार थी। अरब सागर में सक्सेसफुल मिसाइल और टॉरपिडो फायरिंग कंडक्ट की गईं, जिससे हमारे वेपन सिस्टम्स और क्रूज की कॉम्बैट रेडीनेस प्रमाणित हुई। हमारे यूनिट्स का डेटेरेंस पॉश्चर में तत्काल डिप्लॉयमेंट हमारी क्षमता एवं संकल्प का एक स्पष्ट सिग्नल था।

हम अपनी एडवर्सीज पर लगातार और निकट निगरानी रखते हैं। इस क्षेत्र में चाइनीज सिविलियन वेसल्स तथा चाइनीज वॉरशिप्स की प्रत्येक गतिविधि यहां तक कि उनका ट्रांजिट भी निकटता से मॉनिटर किया जाता है। इसी प्रकार

पाकिस्तानी नेवलशिप्स की डिप्लॉयमेंट पर भी निकट निगरानी रखी जाती है।

.... Synergy in joint operations has been a key focus area for the Navy. In addition to joint operations and exercises, including Operation Sindoor, नेवी ने बहुत से ऑर्गेनाइजेशनल ट्रेनिंग और मेंटेनेन्स ऑस्पेक्ट्स में जॉइंट इनिशिएटिव्स में भी लीड सर्विस की भूमिका निभाई है। स्क्रीन में कुछ उदाहरण दर्शाए गए हैं, जैसे कि Joint Logistics Node Mumbai, Joint Military Station at Visakhapatnam, Joint Services Training Institute for Catering at INS Hamla in Mumbai तथा नेवी के ऑपरेशनल नेटवर्क इन्सास और एयर फोर्स के आईएसीसीएस का इंटिग्रेशन हैं। कुछ अहम कॉमन ट्राई सर्विसेज वैपन एंड सेंशस के मेंटेनेंस में भी नौसेना की लीड है।

साल 2025 में कंडक्ट की गईं एक्सरसाइजेस स्क्रीन पर दिखाई गई हैं, जो कि फ्रेंडली फॉरेन कंट्रीज के साथ की गई हैं। प्रधानमंत्री के सागर विजन के 10 वर्ष पूर्ण होने के उपलक्ष्य में आईएनएस सुनयना को इंडियन ओशनशिप सागर के रूप में 5 अप्रैल, 2025 को कारवार से माननीय रक्षा मंत्री द्वारा रवाना किया गया, जिसमें 9 फ्रेंडली फॉरेन कंट्रीज के 44 कार्मिक सवार थे। इसके अतिरिक्त इंटरनेशनल फ्लीट रिव्यू तथा मिलन का आयोजन कल और आज विशाखापत्तनम में किया जा रहा है, जिसमें 74 देशों और दो मल्टीनेशनल कंस्ट्रक्शंस की भागीदारी है।

वर्ष 2026 से 28 की अवधि के लिए इंडियन नेवी इसी माह Indian Ocean Naval Symposium यानी IONS की चेयरमैनशिप ग्रहण करेगा। In a significant feat, the Navy also took over the command of Combined Task Force 154 at Bahrain from the Italian Navy this month, which is a key multinational training task force under the Combined Maritime Forces.”

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

3.26 During oral evidence, on human assistance and disaster relief operations, the representative of the Navy submitted as under:

“अपने बिनाइन रोल में नौसेना ने अनेक humanitarian assistance in disaster relief, search and rescue and medical evacuation missions संचालित किए हैं..... इनमें विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय ऑपरेशन ब्रह्मा तथा ऑपरेशन सागर बंधु रहे हैं, जिन्हें हमने हाल ही में सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न किया है।

यह उल्लेखनीय है कि ऑपरेशन ब्रह्मा में 28 मार्च को 12 बजकर 51 मिनट पर म्यांमार में भूकंप आया और मात्र आधे घंटे के भीतर हमारा पहला शिप रिलीफ मटीरियल लोड करना प्रारंभ कर चुका था। भारत से पहला 10 टन का रिलीफ कन्साइनमेंट 29 मार्च को प्रात: 6 बजे आईएनएस सावित्री पर रवाना किया गया। समग्र रूप से हमने म्यांमार को 512 टन रिलीफ मटीरियल पहुँचाया।

श्रीलंका में साइक्लोन दितवाह के समय हमारे जहाज विक्रांत और उदयगिरि कोलंबो में उपस्थित थे और फर्स्ट रिस्पॉन्डर्स के रूप में सामने आए। 29 नवम्बर, 2025 को लगभग 10 टन रिलीफ मटीरियल प्रदान किया गया। विक्रांत के डेक से तीन चेतक हेलीकाप्टर्स की उड़ानों द्वारा आठ बाढ़ में फंसे हुए श्रीलंकन नागरिकों का सुरक्षित रेस्क्यू किया गया। भारतीय नौसेना द्वारा कुल 969 टन रिलीफ मटीरियल

उपलब्ध कराया गया, जो हाल के वर्षों में प्रदान की गई सबसे बड़ी सहायता में से एक है।"

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CHAPTER IV

JOINT STAFF

The Committee have been given to understand that HQ Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) continued to play a crucial role in enhancing jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Froces through formulation of joint doctrines, conduct of integrated training and exercise; and development of unified operational strategies.

4.2 For examination of the Demands for Grants of Joint Staff for the year 2026-27, the Committee had sought from the Ministry of Defence a statement indicating the proposed and earmarked outlay at Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and actual expenditure for Joint Staff during the last five years including 2025-26, along with projection and allocation in the BE 2026-27. The details submitted to the Committee are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE		RE		Expenditure
	Projection	Allocation	Projection	Allocation	
2021-22	6,251.11	4,543.04	4,684.83	4,146.26	3,715.26
2022-23	5,473.28	4,462.35	6,014.25	5,498.39	4,011.90
2023-24	6,543.78	6,060.45	5,349.33	5,094.38	4,274.76
2024-25	5,312.40	5,075.76	6,351.22	6,307.76	5,285.67
2025-26	6,888.23	6,352.82	6,286.64	5,789.16	3,087.87
2026-27	8,253.47	7,238.72	-	-	-

Note: (i) Expenditure in respect of FY 2025-26 is upto December, 2025.

(ii) RE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 are subject to Parliament's approval.

4.3 During examination of Demands for Grants 2026-27, a representative of Joint Staff through a Presentation before the Committee submitted the following information:

"अब मैं माननीय सदस्यों के समक्ष ज्वाइंट स्टाफ के लिए डिमांड्स फॉर ग्रांट प्रस्तुत करूंगा। ज्वाइंट स्टाफ की भूमिका और कार्यों को सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए हेडक्वार्टर आईडीएस को वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 में कुल 7238.71 करोड़ रुपए एलॉट किए गए हैं। इसमें 4,100 करोड़ रुपए सस्टेनैंस के लिए है और 3138.71 करोड़ रुपए मॉर्डनाइजेशन के लिए शामिल है। करंट फाइनैंशियल इयर के लिए बजट एस्टिमेट एलॉटमेंट पिछले वित्त वर्ष की तुलना में 885.09 करोड़ रुपए अधिक हैं। बजट एस्टिमेट स्टेज में बजट एलोकेशन में यह वृद्धि संयुक्त स्टाफ को अपने संचालन, प्रशिक्षण और अन्य गतिविधियों को प्रभावी ढंग से चलाने में सहायता करेगी।

डिमांड नम्बर 20, रेवेन्यु हेड में 4000 करोड़ रुपए में से 200 करोड़ रुपए सैलरी के लिए और 2100 करोड़ रुपए अदर दैन सैलरी के लिए है। यह बजट एलोकेशन हमारे प्रयासों के समर्थन के लिए पर्याप्त है। वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 के लिए डिमांड नम्बर 21 के अंतर्गत कैपीटल बजट एलॉटमेंट 3138.71 करोड़ रुपए है। स्क्रीन के दाहिने भाग में प्रदर्शित पिछले सात वर्षों की कैपीटल एक्विजिशन बजट एलॉटमेंट तुलनात्मक आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि Budget Estimate allotment for FY 2026-2027 is Rs. 1,481.57 crore more than the current Financial Year. यह वृद्धि संयुक्त स्टाफ के

आधुनिकीकरण और क्षमता विकास के प्रयासों में सहायक होगी।

कैपीटल एक्विजिशन बजट की बढ़ोतरी का उपयोग प्रमुख रूप से इसरो के सहयोग से डिफेंस स्पेस एजेंसी के नैविक सैटेलाइट को लॉंच करने और अंडमान एंड निकोबार कमांड, आर्म्ड फोर्सेज स्पेशल ऑपरेशन डिविजन, ज्वाइंट स्टाफ ऑर्गनाइजेशन की स्पेशियलाइज्ड ऑपरेशनल प्रोक्योरमेंट की खरीद के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा।

मैं इस समिति के माननीय सदस्यों को आश्वासित करना चाहता हूं कि वित्त वर्ष 2026-27के लिए बजट एस्टिमेट में एलॉटेड धन राशि डिफेंस मैन्युफैक्चरिंग में हमारी आत्मनिर्भर पहलुओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ावा देगी। It will enable us to take concrete steps toward coordination of indigenization efforts, outreach to academia for research and development, and hand-holding of private industry, especially Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises."

4.4 The Committee took note of the details of additional requirements projected under Revenue and Capital Heads in respect of Joint Staff at RE 2025-26 stage which is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	Revenue	Capital	Total
BE Allocation	4,000.00	2,352.82	6,352.82
RE Projection	4,597.48	1,689.16	6,286.64
Additional amount sought in RE	597.48	-663.66	-66.18

RE Allocation	4,100.00	1,689.16	5,789.16
MA Allocation	**NA**		

Note: RE 2025-26 is subject to Parliament's approval.

(ii) In FY 2025-26, no additional allocation has been made to Jt. Staff at first supplementary stage under Revenue and Capital Heads.

(iii) The allocations made above at RE stage were based on pace of expenditure, critical requirement of other Services and overall resource envelope available. It may be added that the allocated funds were optimally utilized towards operational activities and urgent and critical capabilities were acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

Role of Joint Staff

4.5 The Committee desired to know about the existing structure and role of Joint Staff and operational mechanism between DMA and Joint-Staff, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"Existing Structure and role of Joint Staff :-

(i) After the Kargil Conflict, the Government constituted the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) to carry out an in-depth review and analysis of Security Management System in the country. KRC made specific proposals for implementation based on the analysis carried out by four task forces. Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers, the

Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) was established on 23 Nov, 2001.

(ii) Organisation structure. IDS comprises of Service Officers, Civilian Officers and Scientists with their allocated duties, roles and functions based on responsibilities of IDS. The envisaged role of the HQ is organised into sets of coherent functions and matching organisational blocks in the form of Branches, Divisions (Divs) and Directorates (Dtes). The branches are headed by Deputy Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS) who are the rank of Lt Gen equivalent. The basic organizational structure is placed at Enclosure 1.

(iii) Roles and fucntions of IDS through CISC (Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman Chief of Staff Committee) as per extant orders of 2016 derived out of GSL of 2001 (Enclosure 2) are as follows: -

(a) To provide secretariat to the Chairman COSC.

(b) Facilitate efficient functioning of multi-service bodies.

(c) Facilitate constitution of Defence Crisis Management Group (DCMG)

(d) Coordination and preparing of Long Range Plans, Five Year Plans and Annual Budgetary proposals for the three services and presenting coordinated set of proposals to RM.

(e) Co-ordinating analyses of critical deficiencies in force capabilities.

(f) Finalising Net Assessments comprising the totality of national capability.

(g) Coordination of all aspects of Defence Intelligence.

(h) Coordinating Defence Services Doctrine.

(i) Set Inter-Service prioritization of capital schemes.

(iv) Operating mechanism between DMA and Joint Staff-

a) The post of the Chief of Defence Staff & who also is head of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was created by GSL no. 9/1/2016-PO(Def) dated 24.12.2019. DMA was created within the MoD.

b) The roles of DMA as derived from Allocation of business rules of DMA issued by cabinet secretariat as Amendment Series no. 381 dated 16 Jun, 2025 (Enclosure 3) are as follows:-

(a) Responsibility of the three Services.

(b) Responsibility of Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence.

(c) The Territorial Army.

(d) Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions.

(e) Works projects of Tri-services.

(f) Promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.

(g) Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations through establishment of joint/theatre commands.

(h) Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.

(v) In addition, Permanent Chairman of Chief of Staff Committee, CDS is supported by the Headquarters of IDS (Organisation structure is placed at Enclosure 4 in following manner: -

(a) Administering of Tri-services organisations including Tri-service agencies/ organisations/ commands related to Cyber and Space.

(b) Provide integrated inputs of the Services to relevant authorities.

(c) Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.

(d) Bring about jointness of the three Services.

(e) Optimal utilization of infrastructure and rationalize it through jointness among the services.

(f) Preparation of roadmap on indigenization of equipment.

(g) Evaluate plans for “out of Area Contingencies”.

(h) Implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP) & Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).

(i) Assign inter-Services prioritization to capital acquisition proposals.

(j) Integrate and rationalize international cooperation plans of the Services.

(k) Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services aimed at augmenting combat capabilities of the armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.

(l) Build trust and confidence in the Services to work together with greater jointness.

(m) Prepare for Raksha Mantri and empirical and objective Report on annual achievements in jointness.

(vi) The Joint Ops Staff at HQ IDS coordinates Tri-Services operational issues in consultation with the three Service HQs through the COSC established Joint Operational Committee (JOCOM) and Joint Operational Logistics Committees (JOLC). Issues of operational relevance to the three services, including organisation, structures and procedures are brought to JOCOM periodically and consensus arrived by discussions and deliberations between the stakeholders. Tri-Service operational issues at the SHQ level are handled by the Joint Ops Staff at HQ IDS and inputs of the same provided to DMA through staff channels.

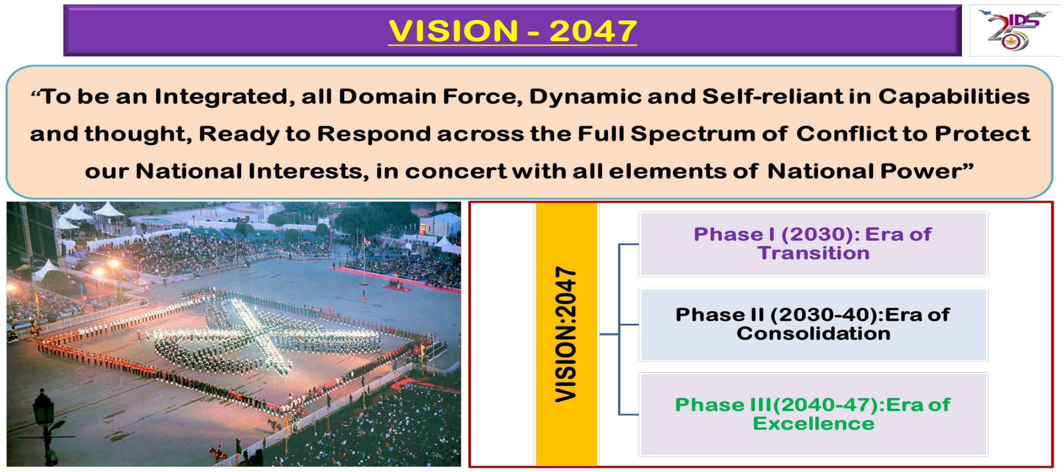
4.6 During oral evidence on Demand for Grants 2026-27, the representative of the Joint Staff on the roadmap for `Vision-2047', submitted the following information:

"रक्षा बलों का विजन 2047 विकसित भारत विजन 2047 के अनुरूप और सामंजस्य में हैI It is to be an integrated all domain force, dynamic and self-reliant in capabilities and thought, ready to respond across the full spectrum of conflict to protect our national interests in concert with all elements of national power. इस विजन को दर्शाए गए तीन क्रमिक समय सीमाओं में अचीव किया जाना है। वर्तमान चरण एक एरा ऑफ ट्रांजिशन है, जो 2030 तक चलेगा, जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य डॉक्ट्रीन और पॉलिसी फ्रेमवर्क्स तैयार करना, ऑर्गनाइजेशनल रीस्ट्रक्चरिंग करना और स्वदेशी क्षमताओं और योग्यताओं को प्राप्त करना है। वर्ष 2030 से 2040 तक का दूसरा चरण एरा ऑफ कंसोलिडेशन है। The broad aim here is to achieve next level of integration convergence and to develop conceptual clarity backed by tangible capability development. वर्ष 2040 से 2047 तक चलने वाला तीसरा चरण एरा ऑफ एक्सीलेंस होगा। इसका उद्देश्य भारतीय रक्षा बलों को विश्व स्तरीय सेना बल में परिवर्तित करना है। Leading in all aspects of technology and ensuring freedom of operation across all domains. जॉइंट स्टाफ के रोल एंड फंक्शन्स इसके विजन से निर्धारित होते हैं, जिसके अनुसार, we are primarily responsible for promoting jointness and integration among the three services. The functions are as highlighted on the projection.

.....मैं माननीय सदस्यों को यह भी सूचित करना चाहूंगा कि हम अपने विजन 2047 की दिशा में अथक प्रयास कर रहे हैं। Headquarter IDS has created a future roadmap aligning with its vision, role and functions. The action plan includes creating and strengthening organizations and structures, especially creation of Integrated Theatre Commands, upgradation of agencies like Defence Space Agency and Defence Cyber Agency to space and cyber commands, creation of more Joint Logistic Nodes, Joint Military Stations, and formulation and promulgation of new joint orders are works in progress.

New joint training courses on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, cryptology, quantum computing, counter unmanned aerial systems, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are on the anvil. In addition, the focus will shift on the civil military fusion for further enhancing national power, accelerate technological self-reliance and foster innovation in self-defence manufacturing."

Further, the representative through presentation apprised the Committee regarding various phases of `Vision- 2047' as under:-



4.7 With regard to the increasing trend of Joint Staff Organisations, the representative of the Ministry submitted as under:

> "…….मैं इस सम्मानित सभा के समक्ष इसकी स्थापना के बाद से ज्वाइंट स्टाफ के बढ़ते प्रभाव को प्रस्तुत करना चाहूंगा। यह 2001 में केवल दो सदस्यों से बढ़ कर वर्तमान में 13 ज्वाइंट स्टाफ ऑर्गनाइजेशन के अधीन आ गया है। जो इसके कमांड फंक्शनल और एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव कंट्रोल में है। इनमें से प्रमुख हैं – अंडमान एंड निकोबार कमांड,नेशनल डिफेंस एकेडमी, डिफेंस सर्विसेज स्टाफ कॉलेज, कॉलेज ऑफ डिफेंस मैनजमेंट और सिग्नल इंटेलिजेंस यूनिट। These joint organizations are precursor to theaterization efforts of the Joint Staff."

<u>Operationalization of theatre command</u>

4.8 On being asked about the role of Joint Staff in operationalisation of the theater command, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as under:

"To fast track the process of Theaterisation, a dedicated team of officers from all three Services has been formed under the Chief of Integrated Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC). Three Joint Staff Officers undertake study of global military organisations as well as organise discussions among the three Services to streamline the process of reorganisation. Issues that merit consensus building are discussed in the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) to arrive at a common understanding. Following a collaborative approach, the Joint Staff has been able to take forward the process of Theaterisation to an advanced stage.

(ii) The Joint Staff at HQ IDS will continue to coordinate operational issues at Theatres with the three SHQs during the operationalisation process and thereafter. It is envisaged that all operational coordination issues between Theatres as well as with Services would be coordinated through the Joint Ops Staff on the structures that are approved."

4.9 During oral evidence, about the jointness and integration of Armed Forces, the representative of Joint Staff stated as under:

"Learning from major lessons of recent conflicts, a Future Operations Analysis Group is proposed to be established at Headquarter IDS to develop tactics, techniques, procedures, and operational art for fighting future wars. Jointness and integration in networking, communications, aerospace safety, logistics, and maintenance are the major focus areas identified.

इंटर सर्विसेज कॉम्युनिकेशन नेटवर्क के लिए उधमपुर, दिल्ली, कोलकाता, मुंबई और तेजपुर और श्री विजयपुरम में छः पॉइंट्स ऑफ इंटरफेस स्थापित किए गए हैं। सामान्य उपकरणों के रख-रखाव संबंधी नीतियों को स्टैंडर्डाइज करने

के लिए सात इंटिग्रेटेड मेनटेनैंस वर्किंग ग्रुप्स का गठन किया गया है।

तीनों सेनाओं की एकीकरण की दिशा में ज्वाइंट लॉजिस्टिक नोट्स,मुंबई, गुवाहाटी और श्री विजयपुरम में स्थापित किए गए हैं। इंटर सर्विसेज ऑर्गनाइजेशन एक्ट की एकीकरण की दिशा में एक और महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। This Act will facilitate administration of tri-service organizations where personnel of all three defence forces are working.

Headquarter IDS, through its Ops Branch, is proactively involved in conceptualizing and preparation of joint plans for threats requiring a tri-service response during peace, crisis and wartime. हम देश के भीतर और बाहर दोनों जगह सर्विसेज द्वारा की जाने वाली आपदा राहत गतिविधियों के कॉर्डिनेशन में शामिल हैं। जिनमें उत्तराखंड की धराली में आई बाढ़ और श्रीलंका में आए साइक्लोन प्रमुख हैं। तीनों सेनाओं की तालमेल के लिए ज्वाइंट एक्सरसाइजेज और ट्रेनिंग ऐक्टिविटीज को प्लान को-ऑर्डिनेट और कन्डक्ट किया जाता है। मित्र देशों के साथ आयोजित अभ्यास भी इसमें शामिल हैं। "

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CHAPTER V

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

The Committee note that Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched with effect from April 1, 2003. ECHS aims to provide quality healthcare to ESM and their dependents through a network of ECHS Polyclinics, Service medical facilites and civil empanelled/Government hospitals spread across the country. The scheme has been structured on the lines of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and is financed by the Government of India. ECHS provides Cashless and Capless Healthcare to Ex-servicemen. The total beneficiaries of the Scheme are approximately 64 lakh. The scheme has also been extended to Gorkha Domiciles with eight Polyclinics in Nepal.

5.2 The Committee have been intimated that ECHS has 31 Regional Centres, 456 ECHS Polyclinics and 3144 Health Care Organizations for providing treatment. ECHS provides health care to over 64 lakh beneficiaries, including primary beneficiaries, spouses, parents, dependent children and others. ECHS employs over 8252 personnel, including 2098 doctors, 2714 paramedics and 3322 non-medical contractual employees.

5.3 In reply to a question about the categorization of ECHS Polyclinics, the Ministry apprised the Committee through a written reply as under:

> "The polyclinics are categorized as either Military or Non-Military, depending upon whether a Military hospital is co-located or not and are further categorized into five types, i.e. Type A to E, based on the strength of ex-servicemen residing in that area, the details are as under:

Category of Polyclinic	No of Ex-Servicemen
Type A	Above 20,000
Type B	Above 10,000
Type C	Above 5,000
Type D	Above 2,500

Type E (Mobile)	Above 850 (for remote areas)

(ii) The polyclinic facilities are utilised by primary beneficiaries (ex-servicemen) and their dependents. Accordingly, the details of actual dependency of ex-servicemen and their dependents in ECHS Polyclinics across the country are enclosed as an **Annexure.**

(iii) Based on the categorisation (Refer Para 2.1 above), resources are authorised to each ECHS Polyclinic. At certain locations the beneficiary base has increased over time, beyond the handling capacity of the existing Polyclinic. For such polyclinics, the requirement of resources is reviewed from time to time for opening of new Polyclinics or upgrading the existing polyclinics.

Budget

5.4 The details of projections, allocation and expenditure by ECHS for the last five years along with projections for 2026-27 are as follows:

(in Rs crores)

FY	Projection at BE Stage	Allotment	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	8396.06	3332.51 (BE) 4412.51 (RE)	4870.73
2022-23	5417.16	3582.51 (BE) 5429.07 (RE) 6929.07 (MA)	6893.00
2023-24	5780.00	5431.50 (BE) 9221.50 (RE) 9880.99 (MA)	9840.13

2024-25	9683.72	6968.00 (BE) 9429.00 (RE) 10928.97 (MA)	10914.04
2025-26	12017.22	8317.00 (BE) 11000.00 (RE)	9263.29 (as on 31 Jan 2026)

Projection and Allocation for BE 2026-27

FY	BE Projection	BE Allotment
2026-27	15827.44	12100.00 (Provisional)

5.5 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about the priorities in which ECHS has to utilize the allocated fund in BE for FY 2026-27 under revenue head, the Ministry replied as under:

"The revenue budget of ECHS is allocated internally under four main heads of expenditure, these are Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE), Medical Stores, Salary and Others. The details of the internal allocation of this Rs.12,100 crs. revenue budget in BE FY 2026-27 within ECHS is as follows: -

(amount in Rs. crs)

Head	BE Projection	BE Allotment
Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE)	13200	9473
Medical Stores	1865	1865
Salary	561	561
Others	201	201
Total	**15827**	**12100**

From the above it can be seen that approximately 78% of ECHS budget allocation is planned for reimbursement of medical bills

(Medical Treatment Related Expenditure) and about 15% for procurement of medicines and medical stores."

5.6 In an another supplementary List of Points enquired whether the allocated fund in BE for FY 2026-27 is sufficient to meet the requirement of ECHS for its functioning, the Ministry replied as under:

"A demand for an amount of Rs 15,827 crs was submitted at BE stage of FY 2026-27, against which Rs 12,100 crs has been allotted to ECHS in BE 2026-27. To meet the requirement gap, additional funds will be demanded at RE stage."

5.7 Further, in the supplementary List of Points when asked about utilization of substantial increased fund allocated in RE for FY 2025-26 i.e. Rs. 50 crore to any plan or scheme, the Ministry replied as under:

"The details for the Capital Budget of ECHS for FY 2025-26 are as follows:

(amount in Rs. crores)

Head	**BE Allotment**	**RE Allotment**	**Exp as on 31.1.26**
Purchase of Land	0.50	0.50	0.00
Construction of Buildings	18	40	15.35
Purchase of Medical Equipment & Vehicles	01	09	0.00
Charge Head	0.50	0.50	0.00

Total	**20.00**	**50.00**	**15.35**

Capital expenditure projects take more than a year to complete and many of these get delayed due to procurement of land related issues and sometimes do not fructify within the FY in spite of regular monitoring and liaison with the State Governments and three Services."

5.8 Also, in the supplementary List of Points when asked about priorities in which ECHS has to utilize the allocated fund in BE for FY 2026-27 *i.e.* Rs. 60.26 crore under capital head, the Ministry replied as under:

"The details of the internal allocation of the Capital Budget of ECHS for the FY 2026-27 is detailed as under: -

(amount in Rs. crores)

Head	**BE Allotment**
Purchase of Land	1.14
Construction of Buildings	23
Purchase of Medical Equipment & Vehicles	35.62
Charge Head	0.5
Total	60.26

The requirement for vehicles and Ambulances is proposed to be met for ECHS polyclinics during FY 26-27. Further funds are being allocated for construction and upgration of ECHS polyclinics. Constant liaison and coordination shall be carried out for planning and timely execution of these capital expenditure projects with the various stakeholders including State Governments and three Services."

5.9 The Ministry furnished the following information to the Committee about additional funds provided at the supplementary stage during FY 2025-26:

"The details of funds allotted at the Revised Estimates stage for the FY 2025-26 are as under:

FY	BE	RE
2025-26	Rs. 8,317 crs	Rs. 11,000 crs

Further funds are being sought for this financial year."

5.10 In the supplementary List of Points when enquired whether there was any plan or scheme in which substantial increased fund is utilized in FY 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:

"The revenue budget of ECHS is allocated internally under four main heads of expenditure, these are Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE), Medical Stores, Salary and Others. The details of the allocation of budget and the expenditure for FY 2025-26 are as follows:

(Amount in Rs. crs)

Head	**BE Projection**	**BE Allotment**	**RE Projection**	**RE Allotment**	**Exp as on 31.1.26**
Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE)	9775	6215	12000	8775	8233
Medical Stores	1475	1475	1800	1598	1164
Salary	797	468	468	468	328
Others	145	159	190	159	38
Total	12194	8317	14458	11000	9763

From the above it is may be seen that approx. 80% of the ECHS Revenue Budget is utilised for reimbursement of medical bills to empanelled hospitals and individuals (Medical Treatment Related Expenditure) and about 15% for procurement of medicines, equipment and medical stores at ECHS polyclinics (Medical Stores)."

5.11 On the issue of budgetary allocations and expenditure, a representative of ECHS submitted as under:

"आपको बताना चाहती हूं कि वर्ष 2021-22 में ई.सी.एच.एस. का बजट 4,865 करोड़ रुपये था। चार सालों में वह बढ़ कर 225 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया। उसमें जो एलोकेशन है, वह बढ़ता जा रहा है, पर वित्त मंत्रालय की यह चिंता है कि इस स्कीम का खर्च बाकी स्कीम्स की तुलना में बहुत तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। इसमें जो खर्च है, जिसमें हम एक्स सर्विसमेन का इलाज करते हैं, वह कैशलेस और कैपलेस होता है।"

5.12 The Committee when desired to know about steps taken to address the shortage of medicines in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"Medicine procurement for the ECHS is carried out by the Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). DGAFMS arranges this through 139 Senior Executive Medical Officers (SEMOs) who procure and ensure availability of medicines at the Polyclinics. Any gap in medicines after the SEMOs procurement is made up through Authorised Local Chemist (ALC). Medicine satisfaction rates through SEMO are reviewed regularly. The endeavour is always for improving the availability of medicine and to address shortage of medicines to avoid inconvenience to ECHS beneficiaries. In order to ensure that there is no shortage of medicines, the following measures have been undertaken:

a) Monetary ceiling limit of purchase that can be carried out through Authorised Local Chemist (ALC) has been doubled as under:

Type 'A'&'B' Polyclinic - Rs 10 Lakh per month.

Type 'C' Polyclinic - Rs 6 Lakh per month.

Type 'D' Polyclinic - Rs 4 Lakh per month.

b) If the medicine is still not available even through an Authorised Local Chemist (ALC), the beneficiary will be given a Not Available (NA) certificate to purchase from the market. The Government on 25.3.2022 decided to extend the period from 15 days to 30 days for purchase of Not Available (NA) medicines and consumables from open market on reimbursement basis at a time subject to the maximum value of medicines and consumables not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- each time under the general conditions and Rs. 75,000/- each time under the special conditions. For cancer medicines, the maximum value of purchase has also been enhanced from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs each time.

c) In addition, ECHS has prepared a common formulary drug list and introduced it in the pharmacy module. Further, the preparation of demand of medicines has been automated. This helps in improved availability of medicines as it is easier to stock and manage medicines using the standard list.

d) E-CDL (ECHS Common Drug List) has been prepared in consultation with the office of Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). It includes essential drugs. This common drug list helps in better prescription, procurement and accounting.

5.13 The Committee desired to know about steps taken to redress the shortage of medical equipments in ECHS Polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Medical equipment is provided to Polyclinics by the office of Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). ECHS maintains continuous coordination with the DGAFMS to manage supplies and streamline equipment availability. Alternative procurement routes such as direct purchase by specialized authorities (e.g, Director General Dental Services (DGDS) for dental equipment) or through the Command Headquarters are also being utilised to speed up replacements. In the interim, the Headquarters Command also make an endeavour to provide the required equipment to their polyclinics utilising their welfare funds or through loan provision as deemed appropriate to ensure that ECHS beneficiaries get timely care.

The many steps being taken to address equipment requirement are detailed as under:

a) A thorough assessment of medical equipment in polyclinics is undertaken to identify shortages. If equipment is faulty, polyclinics are encouraged to get it repaired through the SEMO, the primary vendor, or the Electrical Mechanical Engineer (EME) echelon of the Armed Forces.

b) For equipment that is Beyond Economical Repair (BER), the polyclinics obtain the necessary certificates and submit demand requests to Armed Forces Medical Stores Depot (AFMSD) for replacement.

c) Continuous coordination with the Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services ensures efficient management and supply of medical equipment.

d) Other procurement channels, such as direct procurement by Director General Dental Services (DGDS) for dental equipment or through the Command Headquarters, are used to expedite equipment replacement.

e) An Equipment Management Module is under development by the ECHS IT system to get regular feedback on usage and maintenance needs, enabling quicker action to prevent breakdowns and shortages."

5.14 On the issue of receiving any official complaints in the past five years regarding refusal of treatment of ECHS members by empanelled hospitals, the Ministry submitted as under:

"The ECHS provides cashless and capless health care to the eligible ex-servicemen and their dependents through polyclinics and empanelled hospitals pan-India and in Nepal. The ECHS outreach is being expanded with regular empanelment of the hospitals with the help of the ECHS Regional Centres. The 30 ECHS Regional Centres in India address complaints and grievances through committees that look into the services being provided by the empanelled hospitals and address the grievances/complaints of the beneficiaries.
There is a laid down system for resolving grievances raised."

5.15 The Committee desired to know about measures being contemplated to provide the facilities of mobile ECHS Polyclinics and other relevant Medicare facilities, particularly for women and children, in remote areas of the country, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"To extend the reach of ECHS to rural and remote locations, a Pilot Project for three Mobile Medical Units (MMU) on the lines of National Health Mission at existing Type 'E' Polyclinics (Rampur, Tenga/Tura and Poonch) was initiated on 03 Nov 2025. These MMUs will extend healthcare facilities to beneficiaries including women and children settled at remote, far flung areas with provision of basic diagnostics, lab investigations, issue of medicines and grant of referral on need basis thus resulting in provisioning of medical services and healthcare to beneficiaries at their doorstep.

ECHS has also launched Tele-Consultation through ECHS Services Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module pan India. It enables the beneficiaries including women and children in obtaining online tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the polyclinics. The module aims to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations. It shall facilitate beneficiaries settled in remote and far flung areas."

5.16 When asked regarding the remedial measures taken by the Ministry to overcome unutilised vacancies in the ECHS polyclinics, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

"To improve the interest and response for taking up contractual assignments with ECHS, the Government has revised upwards the remunerations of ECHS contractual employees with effect from 24 July 2025.

Traveling Allowance/ Dearness Allowance has also been granted to these contractual employees. These steps shall provide impetus to the Scheme, towards attracting and ensuring provision of required manpower for providing quality healthcare to beneficiaries."

Development of IT Infrastructure for ECHS

5.17 The Committee note that with an aim to digitally transform the healthcare service delivery ecosystem of ECHS and develop a unified IT system for seamless and end-to-end management of scheme operations by providing a comprehensive, integrated and automated platform which can efficiently drive the inputs, processes and scheme outcomes, an unified system based on Micro Service Architecture has been envisaged. The project is to be developed through an 'In-house Capability Development Programme'. The digitalization process will enable the ECHS eco-system to operate more efficiently, improve access and quality to healthcare services for ex-servicemen and their dependent families, and reduce the burden on the manual system.

Authorized and actual manpower for ECHS Polyclinics

5.18 As regards to number of authorized and actual manpower for ECHS Polyclinics, the Ministry throught written reply apprised the Committee as under:

“As per the polyclinic categorisation, contractual manpower has been authorised at ECHS Polyclinics. The Polyclinics are manned by contractual manpower. Presently, for 456 Polyclinics (including eight polyclinics in Nepal), 8,252 contractual employees are authorised.

(i) The details of the authorised and the actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics is as under:

No.	**Appointment**	**Auth Manpower**	**Actual Manpower**
1	Medical Officer	1147	1247*
2	Medical Specialist	270	178
3	Radiologist	97	30
4	Gynaecologist	97	70
5	Dental Officer	533	516
6	OIC Polyclinic	436	431
7	Para Medical	2841	2661
8	Driver	553	467
9	Non-Medical Staff	2278	2376**#**
	Total	**8,252**	**7,976**

*Notes: * Re-appropriated against other specialists.*
 # Re-appropriated against other manpower.

(ii) Vacancies arise primarily due to the non-availability of Specialists in small towns and remote areas. This vacancy position is a dynamic figure and changes.

(iii) To improve the response for taking up these contractual assignments with ECHS, the Government has revised the remunerations of ECHS contractual employees with effect from 24 July 2025. Traveling Allowance/ Dearness Allowance has also been granted to these contractual employees. These steps shall provide impetus to the Scheme, towards attracting and ensuring provision of required manpower for providing quality healthcare to beneficiaries."

5.19 The Committee desired to know about proposal for enhancing the contractual manpower in ECHS polyclinics, in a written statement, the Ministry submitted as under:

"ECHS Polyclinics are functioning with contractual manpower authorised by the DoESW MoD, from time to time. As on date, a total of 8,252 contractual Medical/ Dental Officers, specialists, para medical staff and non-medical staff vacancies have been allocated to Polyclinics across the country including Nepal.

No.	Appointment	Auth. Manpower
1	Medical Officer	1147
2	Medical Specialist	270
3	Radiologist	97
4	Gynaecologist	97
5	Dental Officer	533
6	OIC Polyclinic	436
7	Para Medical	2841
8	Driver	553
9	Non-Medical Staff	2278
	Total	**8,252**

The last increase in contractual manpower took place in November 2024 when authorisation for Clerks and Data Entry Operators was revised and additional 533 vacancies were allotted.

There are contractual vacancies that are yet to be filled. To improve the interest and response for taking up contractual assignments with ECHS, the Government has revised upwards the remunerations of ECHS contractual employees with effect from 24 July 2025. Traveling Allowance/ Dearness Allowance has also been granted to these contractual employees. These steps shall provide impetus to the Scheme, towards attracting and ensuring provision of required manpower for providing quality healthcare to beneficiaries.”.

Payment of Pending Bills by ECHS to Empanelled Private Hospitals

5.20 When asked regarding the steps being taken by the Ministry to redress the problem of unsettled ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals pending for payment, the Ministry, in a written submission, stated as under:

“Bill processing is a dynamic and ongoing process. Normally, it takes approx. two months for the processing a medical bill of an empanelled hospital. This period can get extended in case a claim is put under the ‘Need More Information (NMI)’ observation. All efforts are made to clear outstanding bills in a time bound manner.

(i) Several steps are taken to ensure efficient and timely settlement of bills of ECHS empanelled hospitals:

a) Continuous monitoring of Turn Around Time (TAT) with the Bill Processing Agencies (BPA).

b) For bills that require further information/clarification from hospitals. Monitoring of response time for the ‘Need More Information (NMI)’ cases with empanelled hospitals for faster processing.

c) More doctors have been assigned to Regional Centres (RCs) facing heavy bill processing workloads to accelerate approvals.

d) A centralised dashboard is being established to track the status of all submitted, approved and pending bills, thus ensuring better transparency and faster processing.

e) Bills of Regional Centres with higher load are forwarded to Regional Centres with lower bill loads to hasten processing.”.

5.21 During the oral evidence of the Committee, on the issue of pending ECHS medical bills of the private recognized hospitals, the representative of Department submitted as under:

“बिल्स के भुगतान में जो देरी की बात की गयी, तो जब से वह एम्पैनेल्ड हॉस्पिटल से निकलता है और जब वह रिजनल सेन्टर में पहुंचता है और हेड ऑफिस तक पहुंचता है, तब तक उन बिल्स को प्रोसेस करने में लगभग दो महीने का समय लगता है। उनको कई एग्जामिनेशन्स करने होते हैं। Normally, there is built in lag of two months. अगर एक वित्तीय वर्ष में उन्हें वे पैसे नहीं आते तो अगले महीने में वह मिल जाता है। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि पैसे कम पड़ जाते हैं, तो हम जिस तादाद में खर्च कर रहे हैं, उस तुलना में हमें एलोकेशन नहीं दी जाती है। आपने देखा होगा कि इसमें हमारा एलोकेशन पिछले साल से थोड़ा बढ़ा है और अगले साल थोड़ा और बढ़ा है। हम चाहेंगे कि आपकी मदद से यह एलोकेशन और बढ़ जाए। इसका बैकग्राउण्ड यह है।“

ECHS in far-flung areas

5.22 On being asked about the steps taken by Ministry to increase the outreach of ECHS in far-flung areas, the Ministry forwarded the following information:

"ECHS is systematically **increasing the number of polyclinics and upgrading existing ones** so that more veterans, including those in remote regions, can access healthcare without traveling long distances. The requirement of new Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to serve a larger beneficiary population.

(ii) Several initiatives have been undertaken to increase the reach of ECHS, these are detailed as under:

a) **e-SeHAT - Tele-Consultation**: ECHS has launched Tele-Consultation through ECHS Services Health Assistance and Tele-consultation **(e-SeHAT)** module pan India. This enables beneficiaries in obtaining online tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the polyclinics. The initiative aims to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations. It shall facilitate beneficiaries settled in remote and far-flung areas.

b) **Mobile Medical Units:** To extend the reach to rural and remote locations, a Pilot Project for three **Mobile Medical Units (MMU)** on the lines of National Health Mission at the existing Type 'E' Polyclinics (Rampur, Tenga/Tura and Poonch) was initiated on 03 Nov 2025.

These MMUs will extend healthcare facilities to beneficiaries settled at remote, farflung areas with provision of basic diagnostics, lab investigations, issue of medicines and grant of referral on need basis thus resulting in provisioning of medical services and healthcare to beneficiaries at their doorstep. On successful completion of the pilot project other MMUs shall be started.".

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CHAPTER VI

DIRECTOR GENERAL ARMED FORCE MEDICAL SERVICES (DGAFMS)

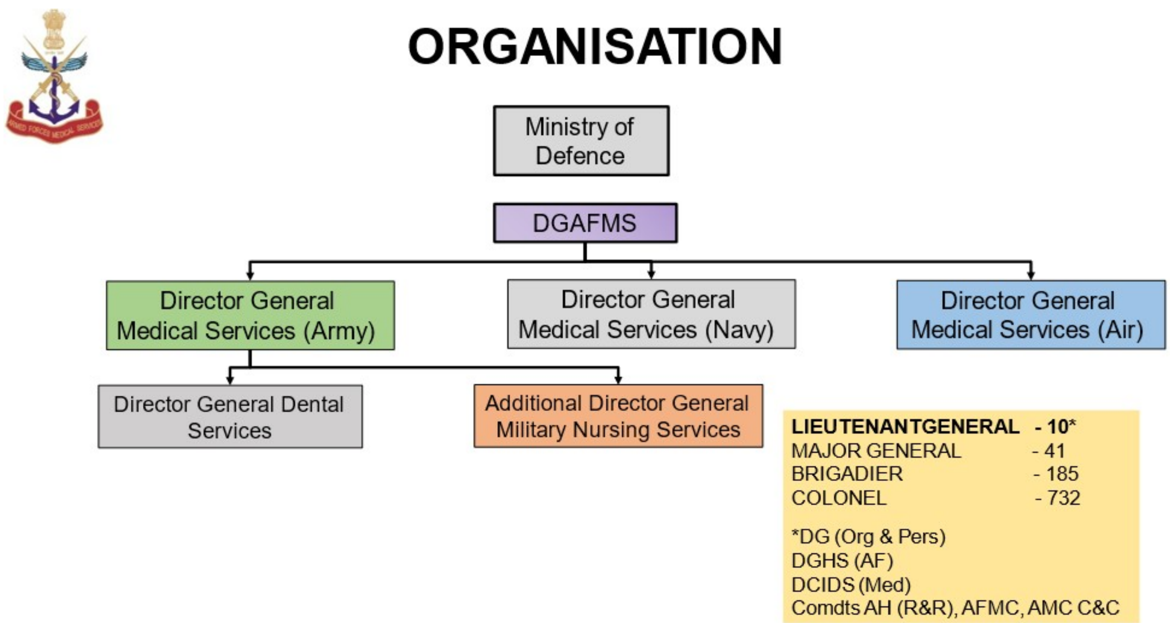
The Committee understand that Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) provides dedicated, dependable and comprensive health care to Defence Personnel and their dependents. The AFMS consists of the Medical Services of the Army, Navy and Air Force under the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters related to the Armed Forces. The heads of medical services of Army, Navy and Air Force are responsible for functioning of these services under the respective Service Chiefs, in accordance with any general policy directions given by the DGAFMS and are the Medical advisors to their respective Services. The Armed Forces Medical Services consist of Army Medical Corps (AMC) including AMC (NT), Army Dental Corps (AD Corps) and Militray Nurshing Service (MNS).

Organisation of Armed Forces Medical Services

As regards to organizational structure, the representative of DGAFMS submitted as under:

> "…..This is the organization of the office of DGAFMS, which comes directly under the Ministry of Defence. There are 10 lieutenant generals, 41 major generals, 185 brigadiers, and 732 select colonels in the organization. These are the three principal staff officers to the DGAFMS. The mission of the DGAFMS is the delivery of comprehensive medical care of the highest standards during operations as well as peacetime, within the country as well as abroad, along with seamless medical logistics support, research, and training. The mandate of the DGAFMS is the direct responsibility to the MOD and the DGAFMS of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the medical advisors to the respective service chiefs. These are the unique considerations, primarily comprehensive combat medical care from group to two, and care under fire."

Further, the representative through a presentation apprised the Committee regarding organizational structure of the DGAFMS:



6.2 When the Committee desired to know the principal mandate of DGAFMS, the Ministry through written reply furnished the following:

> "(a) The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters in so far as they relate to the Armed Forces. The heads of medical services of Army, Navy and Air Force will be responsible for functioning of these services under the respective Service Chiefs in accordance with any general policy directions that may be given by the DGAFMS and are the Medical Advisors to their respective Services.
>
> (b) DGAFMS has been discharging the responsibilities with utmost satisfaction of the clientele. The AFMS is always striving to upgrade the infrastructure and equipment profile of its hospitals and other medical establishments. Procurement of modern electromedical equipment empowering AFMS hospitals with latest diagnostic and therapeutic tools have led to a greater satisfaction among its clientele. Research in AFMS has ensured optimal progress in modern medical technology for treatment and diagnosis of diseases. Professional training of doctors in AFMS has ensured in-house capability of specialists and super specialist medical care.".

Budget

6.3 During oral evidence, the representative of DGAFMS through presentation on the budget allocation apprised the Committee as under:

Sr. No.	Head	Fund Allotted FY 2025-26 (Rs. in Cr.)	Fund Utilized FY 2025-26 (Rs. in Cr.)
1.	Capital	850.0000	850.0000*
2.	Revenue	1732.8378	1732.8378
3.	ECHS	1358.1368	1071.5475**

* caters only Army Capital funds

** Expected full utilization by end of FY

Sr. No.	Head	Fund Allotted FY 2023-24 (Rs. in Cr.)	Fund Allotted FY 2024-25 (Rs. in Cr.)	Fund Allotted FY 2025-26 (Rs. in Cr.)
1.	Capital	610.7336	694.6776	850.0000
2.	Revenue	1426.660	1534.1200	1732.8378
3.	ECHS	1174.6860	1210.9403	1358.1368

Sr. No.	Head	Fund Allotted FY 2026-27 (Rs. in Cr.)
1.	Capital	850.0000
2.	Revenue	1729.6278

6.4 Further, with regard to utilization of allocated fund for BE 2025-26 i.e. Rs. 891 crore and Rs. 2250 crore under Capital and Revenue head, respectively, the Ministry submitted as under:

> "The total allocation of Funds for Financial Year 2025-26 (till date) under Capital and Revenue head is Rs. 650 Crore and Rs. 1744.42 Crore (approx.), respectively. Funds allotted are adequate."

Medical Services of Army, Navy and Air Force

6.5 On current medical facilities and proposal for development of new hospitals/medical facilites for Armed Forces personnel, the Ministry submitted as under:

"(a) The existing medical facilities adequately caters to the needs of the Armed Forces personnel, including entitled clientele.

(b) Medical facilities are ever evolving and the AFMS aims to remain updated and provide contemporary care to the Armed Forces personnel. Towards this, some of the proposed areas to augment the existing facilities, which are being done, are as under:-

(i) Some major projects underway for upgradation/modernization of the infrastructure are as follows:

- Command Hospital (Central Command) Lucknow
- Base Hospital, Delhi Cantonment
- Command Hospital (Air Force) Bangalore
- 178 Military Hospital
- 155 Base Hospital
- Military Hospital, Meerut
- Military Hospital, Yol
- 92 Base Hospital
- 425 Field Hospital
- Indian Naval Hospital Ship, Pantanjali, Karwar

(ii) In addition, following raisings/ up-gradations as part of capability development along northern borders has been sanctioned by competent authority: -

- Up-gradation of 180 Military Hospital from 148 beds to 250 beds.
- Up-gradation of 153 General Hospital from 200 beds to 300 beds.

- Raising of 75 bedded Military Hospital at Along."

6.6 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about any timeline framed for completion of upgradation/modernization of the infrastructure which are underway, the Ministry replied as under:

"Yes, timeline are being framed on case to case basis, based on individual administrative approvals for upgradation/ modernization of hospital infrastructure. Details are as under: -

S No	Hospital	Likely Timeline for Completion
(i)	155 Base Hospital	2026
(ii)	425 Field Hospital	2026
(iii)	178 Military Hospital	2026
(iv)	Military Hospital, Yol	2027
(v)	Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow	2027
(vi)	Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt	2028
(vii)	Military Hospital, Meerut	2028
(viii)	Indian Naval Hospital Ship, Patanjali, Karwar	2026
(ix)	Command Hospital (Air Force), Bangalore	2028

6.7 As regards to referral hospitals or Super Speciality hospitals for Armed Forces personnel, the Ministry submitted as under:

"(a) In Indian Army, there are 6 Super Speciality Hospitals including 5 Command Hospitals and Army Hospital (Research &

Referral). Although upgradation of existing hospitals is being taken up on a regular basis, no felt need for opening additional super specialist hospitals has been envisaged.

(b) In Indian Navy, there are three referral hospitals, namely Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS) Asvini, Mumbai; INHS Kalyani, Visakhapatnam; and INHS Sanjivani, Kochi. In this regard, it is intimated that INHS Patanjali, Karwar is currently under construction as part of its upgradation from a 141-bed speciality hospital to a 409-bed super-speciality hospital.

(c) In Indian Air Force (IAF), there is 01 Super Speciality Hospital viz. Command Hospital Air Force, Bengaluru. No additional Super Speciality Hospital is required in IAF.

(d) AFMS works on the principles of echelon based medical care in geographical location. Thus, patients are referred from peripheral MI Rooms (smallest medical echelon providing primary care) located with non-medical units, to peripheral hospitals, mid zonal and zonal hospitals providing secondary care and thereafter to Command Hospitals and Army Hospital (Research & Referral) for tertiary care.”.

6.8 The Committee desired to know about the existing medical facilites at far-off locations along the border areas, the Ministry in their written reply intimated:

“The DGAFMS has an elaborate mechanism of reviewing and delivering medical care across the country including border and remote areas across the three services including physical visits and periodic online reviews by senior AFMS officers to these areas. The DGAFMS has visited medical units of Headquarters 15 Corps in the month of April 2025 and medical units of Headquarters 16 Corps in Jammu & Kashmir during the month of June 2025. In addition, various functionaries including Director Generals of Medical Services (DGsMS) of respective Services (Army/ Navy/ Air Force) also visit medical facilities located pan India including border areas as part of familiarization visit and departmental inspections.”

6.9 With regards to need for revamping the existing facilites in the light of critical illness or new weather-related health hazards, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

"Existing facilities in the border areas are essentially meant for providing combat medical support to soldiers deployed along International Border, Line of Actual Control and Line of Control of the nation. The terrain constraints including weather and operational limitations often lead to unique medical challenges. Field Hospitals, Station Medicare Centres and Sick Bays are equipped with necessary infrastructure and terrain related medical equipment for providing combatants optimal medical support. As the nature of warfare evolves, medical support to fighting troops also changes and requisite stores, equipment and infrastructure is provided accordingly."

<u>Specialist care in AFMS</u>

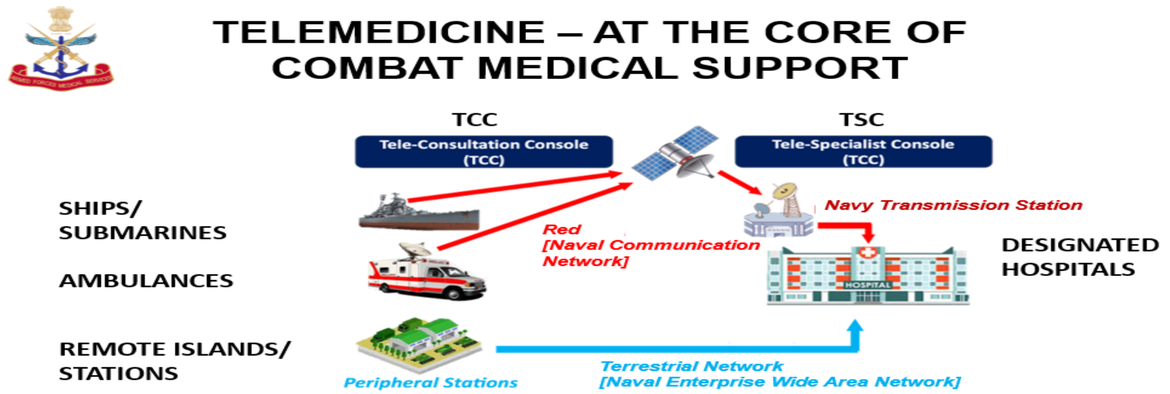
6.10 As regards to existence of policy for ensuring availability of specialists/super-specialists at all times in critical areas, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

"(a) The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) provides comprehensive medical care across peace, field & combat areas which range from basic care to highly specialized care through its Primary, Secondary, Tertiary & Quaternary Medical establishment. The specialist officers are positioned at these establishments depending on the geographical location, dependent clientele & level of care required to be provided at each echelon.

(b) The AFMS has a well-defined institutional framework governed by extant policies to ensure availability of specialists/ super specialists in critical areas regulated by the laid down posting policies of the respective Service Headquarters i.e. Army, Navy and Air Force, in consultation with DGAFMS taking into account operational commitments, hospital authorization, functional requirements of hospitals & patient load."

<u>Use of technology, training and Medical Research in AFMS</u>

6.11 With regard to Telemedicine, the representative of the DGAFMS through presentation apprised the Committee as under:



6.12 The Committee desired to know about the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)/ drones and other technology for providing healthcare facilities, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

> "The Use of UAV/ Drones/ other technology for augmenting the existing healthcare system is being contemplated and trials to deliver medical stores have been conducted in field conditions. At present, UAV belonging to various field formations are being used for the purpose in case of emergencies. Also, technology has been widely adopted in healthcare delivery. Major examples are SeHAT portal which extends telemedicine support to all soldiers, sailors and air warriors across the country. The Indian Navy has extended healthcare facilities to its beneficiaries on an internet enabled healthcare management information system. Telemedicine is also being provided through SWASTH app and RUKMINI satellite in the Navy. The DGAFMS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), Ministry of Electronics and IT for co-development of Digital Healthcare solutions."

6.13 During oral evidence, on the issue of training and medical reseach in AFMS, the representative of DGAFMS apprised the Committee as under:

> "……Training and medical research occurs in the premier institution, which is the Armed Forces Medical Services, which trains all kinds of medical, postgraduates and nursing students. There are 220 nursing cadets who are taken in every year. Several research and innovation practices and innovative

activities occur in the AFMS. The Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine has been established, and participated in a one-hour round table discussion at the AI Impact Summit, which is ongoing. It is happening since 17th of February. Next-generation sequencing, of course, is involved in molecular diagnostics. The frozen RBC storage is the first licensed RBC storage facility, which is in the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre in Delhi.

There is a high-altitude medical research centre. There are several collaborative projects and several collaborations and MoUs with severe premier institutions around the country, such as the IITs, DPG, Chandigarh, the IISC, and the MHFW. There are several collaborative projects ongoing, including with the ICMR and the National Health Research Priority, which serves to start projects on high-altitude combat, marine, and aerospace medicine. Seven such projects have been approved. There is a Center of Advanced Research, which is the AFS Biomedical Innovations Validation Integration Center in AFMC….

….. Health in the AFMS has contributed to the One Health Mission by providing expertise in various fields and is part of the One Health Conclave. It directly coordinates with various organizations such as the MEA, the MHFW, as well as MHA, the NDRF, the NACCO, and the CPCB."

6.14 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about any collaboration made by AFMS for research work in modern medical technology with any national or internation medical research institutions, the Ministry replied as under:-

"(a) The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has actively pursued collaborations with premier national institutions to advance research and development in modern medical technologies. AFMS has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with institutes of national repute to promote collaborative research, academic exchange and training in cutting-edge medical domains.

(b) At present, research initiatives in modern medical technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), are being undertaken in collaboration with the following institutions:-

(i) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

(ii) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
(iii) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.
(iv) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
(v) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
(vi) National Centre for Cell Science, Pune.
(vii) Aurigene Private Limited (CAR-T Trial).
(viii) Technology Development Fund, DRDO.
(ix) Indian Council of Medical Research (Small Extramural Grant).
(x) Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) [Defence India Start-up Challenge-Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (DISC-MIRA) Challenge].
(xi) AI in Healthcare initiatives with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

(c) These collaborations focus on research on AI enabled diagnostic, biomedical devices development and other emerging healthcare technologies relevant to military medicine.

6.15 As regards mental health, the representative of DGAFMS apprised the Committee as under:

"Sir. We are looking into that very carefully. We have just begun a pilot project with base hospital, Delhi Cantt., where we have started a clinic which is a preventive healthcare clinic that will also look after their standard parameters as well as an examination for this.

We also have a Tele-MANAS helpline which is there for all Armed Forces personnel as well as veterans. It is run in AFMC. It has been specially given to us by the NIMHANS from Bengaluru and it is a service-specific one for obvious security reasons. So, they do subscribe to that also. We are looking forward to that. If this improves, we will put it up in other polyclinics also."

Procurement of Equipment and hospital upgradation

6.16 With regard to the procurement of equipment and hospital upgradation for Armed Forces, the representative of DGAFMS during oral evidence submitted as under:

> "Several sophisticated equipment have been procured -- Arthroscopic Simulators; Teletheraphy, which is a radio therapy unit; complex 3-Tesla MRIs; High Resolution Operative Microscopes; Hyperbaric Chambers; Portable CT scanners in field hospitals and field locations; Laparoscopic Simulators; Vitreo-Retinal Cataract Surgery; O-Arm Robotic Visualisation Systems.
>
> Several new upgradations of hospitals in the Northern Borders have happened such as at Misamari in Leh as well as at Along. Several upgradations have happened as you can see in Lucknow, Delhi, and in various parts of the country."

Automation/ Digitization in AFMS

6.17 The Committee note that some initiatives have been taken in the field of automation/digitization in AFMS as under:

> **"Operationalisation of e-Aushadi.** To improve supply chain and inventory management systems for drugs and consumables, a software application e-Aushadi has been developed in collaboration with CDAC, Noida. The application is internet based and all medical units of AFMS are presently using these modules for procurement and demand of consumables in medical stores. Service of Data Centre are also being provided by C-DAC Noida through their Tier-III Data Centre.
>
> **Operationalisation of e-Upkaran.** e-Upkaran is an online inventory management application for non-expendable medical stores. The application facilitates indenting, inventory management of medical equipment from the most peripheral unit till the largest tertiary care hospital. The application has been operationalized wef Jun 2024.
>
> **Ni-KSHAY Portal**. Sharing the aim of Government of India to achieve the vision for Tuberculosis Mukt Bharat, Military Hospitals of Indian Army have onboarded on Ni-KSHAY portal

which is a web-based patient management system for Tuberculosis control under the National Tuberculosis Elimination. The portal helps health functionaries to register Tuberculosis cases for testing, treatment and follow up.

ECHS module for SeHAT. An ECHS module of SeHAT has been rolled out since July 2024. The module has been developed by Central Org ECHS and has been hosted alongwith the SeHAT application by HQ IDS (Med). With this facility, ECHS members can have tele-consultations online without visiting the hospital/ health care facility. The service can be accessed by visiting the website or by using the mobile app available on Android and Apple stores."

<u>Review of rules related to DGAFMS</u>

6.18 With regard to rules which govern DGAFMS and need for its review, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

"(a) Charter of duties of DGAFMS have been outlined in 'Regulations for the Medical Services of the Armed Forces' (RMSAF-2010).

(b) The first edition of RMSAF was published in 1949. Subsequently revised editions have been published in 1962, 1983 and lastly in 2010. Hence periodic reviews of RMSAF have been done to incorporate amendments/ revisions.

(c) Present RMSAF-2010 is also being reviewed and revised.

(d) Revision of Medical Schedules of Powers-2022 is also at advance stage.".

<u>Challenges faced and Measures taken by AFMS</u>

6.19 On being asked about the challenges facted by AFMS in delivering healthcare facilites in difficult and far flung border areas, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

"(a) **<u>Challenges faced by AFMS</u>**

(i) Weather related challenges are the maximum in far flung areas.

(ii) Providing specialist medical care to such areas is a challenge in certain location.

(iii) Casualty evacuation from such areas to zonal/ mid zonal hospitals especially during serious emergencies.

(b) **<u>Measures taken/ proposed</u>**

(i) Yodha Rakshak training to non-medical personnel of Indian Army in first aid.

(ii) Procurement of Yodha Rakshak Bachav kits for first aid management in field.

(iii) Advance Trauma Life Support, Basic Life Support, Advance Cardiac Life Support training for young Medical Officers at Officers Training College, Lucknow; Armed Forces Medical College, Pune; Command Hospital (Northern Command), Udhampur and Command Hospital Air Force, Bangalore.

(iv) Upgradation of existing ambulances available with the Indian Army and procurement of new ambulances.

(v) Oxygen generation plants at far flung areas.

(vi) Telemedicine through SWASTH app and RUKMINI satellite in the Navy.

(vii) Telemedicine Nodes of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Indian Army.

(viii) Training of Non-medical personnel in weather related injuries.

(ix) Procurement of Ultrasonography (USG) machine, Computed Tomography (CT) Scan machines (for certain peripheral/ zonal/ mid zonal hospitals) among other sophisticated electro-medical equipment.

6.20 In the supplementary List of Points when asked about number of non-medical personnels of Indian Army who have been trained as Yodha Rakshak till date, the Ministry replied that **till January 2026, approximately 32,370 non-medical personnel of Indian Army have been trained as Yodha Rakshak**

6.21 In an another supplementary List of Points when enquired whether Yodha Rakshak are sufficient in number for facilitating first aid requirement to soldiers deployed in difficult and far flung boarder areas, the Ministry replied as under:

“Yes. The deails are as under: -

(a) The Yodha Rakshak initiative has been conceptualized and progressively implemented to enhance immediate life-saving capability at Unit level, particularly in operational and remote border deployments.

(b) At present, Yodha Rakshak personnel are being trained in a phased and structured manner across formations with the aim of ensuring adequate representation at sub-unit and section levels.

(c) Training under the Yodha Rakshak programme is an ongoing process. Periodic refresher courses, additional nominations from units and integration of combat casualty care modules into pre-induction and in service training are being undertaken to further strengthen coverage, particularly in high-altitude, counter-insurgency and far-flung border areas.

(d) While the current numbers are operationally adequate to meet essential first-aid requirements at forward locations, the programme continues to be expanded and reviewed, in line with evolving operational commitments and deployment patterns.”

<u>Human assistance and disaster relief operations</u>

6.22 During oral evidence, on human assistance and disaster relief operations, the representative of DGAFMS sumitted as under:

> “The Armed Forces Medical Services conducts HDR operations overseas. It has been conducted recently in Myanmar, where more than 2,500 casualties were treated. Very recently in Sri Lanka, 7,500 casualties and 500 surgeries were done.”

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PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27) IN RESPECT OF ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVY

The Committee learnt that the total allocated budget for the Ministry of Defence for Financial year 2026-27 is Rs. 7,84,678.28 crore. Out of which, the largest share of 74.52%, i.e. Rs. 5,84,785.45 crore has been allocated for Defence Services Estimates (DSE) (Grant No. 20 and 21). The Capital Outlay on Defence Services (Grant No. 21) is Rs. 2,19,306.47 crore and an amount of Rs. 3,65,478.98 crore allocated to Defence Services Revenue (Grant No. 20). Out of the total Defence Services Revenue, an amount of Rs. 2,41,968.98 crore has been allocated for FY 2026-27 to Army under Revenue head which is approx. 60% and in Capital head Rs. 41,672.94 crore allocated which is 19% of the total Capital Outlay of Defence Services. Similarly, Air Force has been allocated an amount of Rs. 63,150.00 crore under Revenue head for FY 2026-27 which is approx. 17% of the total Defence Services Revenue and an amount of Rs. 88809.97 crore allocated under Capital head which is approx. 40% of the total Capital outlay on Defence Services. Further, Navy has been allocated an amount of Rs. 46,800.00 crore under Revenue head for FY 2026-27 which is approx. 13% of the total Defence Services Revenue and an amount of Rs. 70063.31 crore allocated under Capital head which is approx. 32% of the total Capital outlay on Defence Services. The Committee appreciate the enhanced and favourable allocation both in Revenue and Capital heads to Army, Air Force and Navy for FY 2026-27 in comparison to the previous years to fulfil their liabilities.

ARMY

Budgetary allocation and utilization of Army

The Committee note that the security challenges confronting our nation are diverse and intricate. The Indian Army recognizes these complexities alongside the swiftly changing geopolitical, socio-economic and technological landscapes. Consequently, the Indian Army has designated the period from 2022 to 2032 as the `Decade of Transformation' to build a future-ready force. The Committee also note that while continuously assessing operational readiness, the Indian Army remains dedicated to advancing national interests and protecting the country's sovereignty and unity from both external and internal threats.

To perform all the duties with perfection, the Army needs Revenue as well as Capital Budget as per the projection. Under Revenue Head, the Army had projected Rs. 2,61,542.98 crore for the financial year 2026-27, for Revenue against which the allocation is Rs. 2,41,968.98 crore, which is Rs. 19574 crore less than the projection. However, the Committee are happy to note that the allocation has been increased from Rs. 2,06,200 crore which stand as an increase of Rs.35768.98 core which is 17.34 percent. During the financial year 2025-26, against the projection of Rs 2,14,727.72 crore, it was allocated Rs. 2,06,200.00 crore, which was reduced by Rs. 8527.72 crore. In the RE same year, the Army made a projection of Rs. 2,38,807.48 crore but the allocation was Rs 2,29,648.71 crore. The Committee find that during FY 2025-26, Rs 1,64,465.05 crore was spent till December, 2025 and Rs 65183.66 crore will be spent in the coming three

months. The Committee, hope that the Ministry would take prudent fiscal planning and concerted efforts to spend the remaining amount in the remaining period of the financial year with out any savings. 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 hope that this increasing trend of Revenue budget will be continuing in future financial years. The Committee understand that a major portion of the budget 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. During the year 2026–27, the allocation under non-salary expenditure has been fixed at Rs.85,841 crore, as against Rs.60,672 crore in 2025–26, reflecting a substantial increase of Rs.25,169 crore. When compared with the rise of Rs.10,281 crore between 2024–25 and 2025–26, this enhanced allocation marks a significant and welcome step forward.The Committee notes with appreciation the upward trend in non-salary expenditure and emphasizes that this positive trajectory should be sustained in the coming years. It is further reiterated that regular consultations with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level must be undertaken promptly once proposals for subsequent budgets are formulated, to ensure continuity and strengthening of this trend.

2. Under Capital Head, the Committee are happy to note that since the year 2023-24 till 2026-27, the Army has been allocated the full amount as per their projection. During the BE for the financial year 2026-27, Army's projection was Rs. 41,672.94 crore

and they have allocated the same amount. In RE of 2025-26, the projection of the Army was Rs. 36,198.43 crore and the allocation was Rs. 35,239.66 crore .The Committee find that upto December 2025, Rs. 26810.53 crore has been spent. The Committee hope that the remaining fund will be gainfully utilized by the end of the current financial year. 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. Over the years the cost of force level and infrastructure development also increasing. The Committee feel that the allocation for Capital budget should be incremental in nature, so that it can absorb the inflationary trends. While commending the Army's decisive role in safeguarding national security during *Operation Sindoor*, the Committee emphasizes the need for sustained investment in defence preparedness. It urges that future budgets should prioritize the induction of state-of-the-art weapon systems and the development of requisite infrastructure, so that the Army's hallmark swiftness and coordinated response to diverse security scenarios can be maintained and further strengthened.

The Committee also expect 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.

Percentage Share of Army Budget

3. The Committee note that the percentage share of the Army's budget during FY 2021-22 was 42.54 percent for the revenue

budget, 10.53 percent for capital budget and the overall percentage was 53.06 percent out of the Defence Services Estimates. However, in FY 2026-27 the percentage share is 41.38 per cent for revenue budget, 7.13 percent for capital budget and the overall percentage is 48.50 percent.

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.

Budget for Modernization

4. The Committee note from the replies submitted by the Ministry that in the Financial Year 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 26,100.00 crore and Rs. 29,000.00 crore were allocated to Army at BE and RE stage, respectively, under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. Further, in BE 2026-27, an amount of Rs. 34,150.00 crore has been allocated to Army under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head which is approx. 31% higher than the previous allocation. The Committee have also been apprised that in addition to normal procurement, the Government has also established emergency procurement arrangements. The Committee have also been informed that Army purchased drones, counter-drone systems, electronic warfare, training

weapons, and other equipment and also used these in Operation Sindoor and benefited from them. Army made these procurements in keeping with the changing methods of warfare. 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 geo-political scenario and for acquiring latest and advanced technology weapons/equipments, it is also emphasized here that in case of any further need, all out efforts should be undertaken by the Ministry to enhance Army's budgetary requirements at the revised/supplementary grant stage.

<u>Modernisation and Modern Warfare Tactics</u>

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. It also finds 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 signed an MoU with IIT, Madras for innovations. The Military College of Telecommunication Engineering has become a strategic partner in Indian AI Mission, Chips to Startup Mission and quantum key distribution projects. The Committee applaud the initiatives of the Ministry for vigorously and steadily progressing the capability development and for reviewing and renewing the

acquisition procedures under Atmanirbharta, based on lesson from Operation Sindoor and emerging threat perception. The Committee also find that over three hundred schemes are planned to acquire potent fighting capabilities over the next ten years. It has also come to the knowledge of the Committee that post Operation-Sindoor, emergency procurement provisions were accorded in 2025 for capital and revenue procurement to further enhance capability to development. The Committee are also happy to know that emergency procurements are being utilised for acquiring drones, counter-drones, weapon systems, precision ammunition, electronic warfare and surveillance systems. 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 feel 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 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.

Indigenization

6. The Committee find from the replies submitted by the Ministry that during the last five financial year (2020-21 to 2024-25) and current Financial year 2025-26 (upto December, 2025), total 479 capital acquisition contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Army, out of which 419 contracts worth about 91.32% of total contracts value, have been signed with Indian Vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment. The Committee note that during FY 2020-21 Rs. 17446.83 crore expenditure incurred on indigenous procurement for Defence equipment by Army. However, during FY 2025-26 (upto December, 2025) this has been increased to Rs. 20853.41 crore which is approx. 20% higher. The Committee also note that in BE 2025-26, an amount of ₹22, 600 Cr (i.e. 86.59% of the total allocation of ₹26,100 Cr to Army under Capital Acquisition Head) has been earmarked to Army for acquisition from indigenous sources. However, in FY 2026-27, an amount of ₹28,909.00 Cr (i.e. 84.65% of the total allocation of ₹34,150.00 Cr) is proposed for Capital Acquisition for Army from indigenous sources (Domestic Procurement).

Further, the Committee find that the Ministry of Defence has taken a number of initiatives towards import substitution in armament acquisition and achieve the goal of Make in India initiative. DAP 2020, being the guiding document of capital acquisition has incorporated a number of initiatives *i.e.* Highest priority to procurement is given to Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category, followed by Buy (Indian), Buy and Make (Indian), Buy (Global-Manufacture in India), Buy (Global) Categories, induction of Make-I (Govt. Funded) and Make-II (Industry-Funded) projects to promote prototype development of niche technology items in

collaboration with development Agencies including private entities, induction of Make-III process (mainly through ToT) for indigenization of imported spares with the aim of enhancing self-reliance through import substitution, mandate to increase IC in various categories of procurement under DAP-2020 with minimum 50% of overall IC, self-reliance in Indian Defence eco system with "No foreign sourcing" and foreign procurements, encourage participation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to create a robust defence industrial eco-system with aim to enhance the ease of doing business, provide grant-in-aid by DRDO through the Technology Development Fund (TDF) to industries including MSMEs and start-ups along with Academic and Scientific institutions for the development of defence and dual-use technologies, notification of a list of weapons/platforms banned for import with a view to promote domestic and indigenous industry by MoD and earmarking of 75% of the total capital budget for domestic Capital procurement for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26.

The submissions made by the representative during oral evidence revealed that self-sufficiency in defence procurement and manufacturing is a strategic imperative for India. For example, through concerted and pro-active efforts and in close coordination with other agencies 163 out of 175, that is, 93 per cent ammunition variant have been indigenised. The Committee have been informed that a of total 57 items have been authorised as part of special clothing and mountaineering equipment and out of which 53 have been indigenised. The Committee are happy to know that the Indian Army has also acquired the capability for developing in-house drone systems with the aim to undertake development of indigenous autonomous weapon systems with

desired lethal payload and appropriate human control missions. The experiment was conducted in April, 2025 to evaluate indigenous capability in autonomous weapon systems and to evolve a roadmap for its induction.

While commending the efforts, made by the Ministry towards indigenization, the Committee recommend that consistent and systematic efforts alongwith the meticulous, prudent and long term planning should be in place to maintain this pace of Atmanirbhar and future ready Force and the Ministry should extend all the financial and administrative support in this regard by imbibing the principle of 'one step ahead'.

<u>Force level of Army</u>

7. The Committee are happy to note that acquisition of equipment is an ongoing process and equipment holdings are dynamic and change based upon 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 also been informed that Indian Army closely collaborating with DRDO, DPSUs and Private Industry to ensure resilient supply chains towards indigenization. Thus, 90% of Indian Army's ammunition has been indigenised *i.e.* (157 out of 175 items) resulting in reducing import dependency & establishing a robust 'Atmanirbhar' Ammunition Manufacturing ecosystem.

The Committee note that the Rudra Brigade represents the most significant structural change in Indian Army which is

combined arms formations that permanently integrate infantry, armour, artillery, engineers, signals, air defence, drones and logistics echelons. Further, Bhairav Battalions, Ashni protons and shaktimaan regiments have also been raised and these specialised units will combine speed, technology and precision which are designed from modern warfares. The Committee also note that the Indian Army is fully committed to the vision of a developed India @ 2047 and is carrying out Military Civic Action Projects under Operation Sadbhavana in the border areas. The Committee may be apprised about the status of all these efforts.

The Committee are 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, technology development, harmonising intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance resources, aggregating remotely piloted assets, joint standard operating procedures and formulation of joint military civil fusion doctrine. The Committee have been informed that Indian Army is enhancing its defence through integration of Akashteer, Command and control system which creates a real time unified and automated picture of the battlefield by integrating with the Indian Air Force Integrated Air Command and Control System.The Committee wish to emphasize the continuity of all these efforts and may be apprised of the progress made in these.

The Committee have also been informed that curriculam/syllabi for instituionalised training in Indian Army is reviewed on regular basis to keep them current and relavant based on the existing policy in vogue. The revision of Syllabi is a dynamic & continuous process. The Committee have further

informed that Training Advisory Committee has been formed at HQ ARTRAC to make concerted efforts for obtaining inputs from all stakeholders in order to prepare comprehensive list of topics for inclusion in training under the heads of Technology Absorption, lessons learnt from ongoing conflicts and situations prevailing along borders. The Committee are happy to know that a large number of General Staff Publications are being upgraded and revised to include latest inputs on New Generation Equipment/ lessons learnt from recent conflicts & technical data on disruptive/ niche technology/ equipment to prepare officers to handle changing character of war.

The Committee are also happy to know that the Indian Army causalities have reduced over the years by equipping the shoulders with better weapons, surveillance system and protective gear as also focused training. The Committee express their satisfaction over the continuous effort being made to further augment the capacity of the hitherto existing capable forces in the army.

<u>Women empowerment</u>

8. 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 after 2020, consequent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement from the ramparts of Red Fort, Permanent Commission to Women Officers is being granted in 13 x Combat Support Arms and Services such as Regiment of Artillery, Corps of Signals, Corps of Engineers, Army Aviation Corps, Army Air Defence, Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Intelligence Corps, and Remount &

Veterinary Services. The Committee have also been informed that Permanent Commission to Women Officers in Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps & Military Nursing Services continues hither-to-fore. The Committee note that from the year 2021, women officers are also being commissioned in Army Aviation as pilots. The Committee also happy to note a series of new initiatives with regard to women empowerment such as increase of women officers vacancies from 80 per year to 144 per year, earmarking 120 vacancies per year for women officer cadets in Officers Training Academy, opportunity to apper in staff college exam at par with their male counterparts, consideration for Col (Selection Grade) ranks and given command appointments of Units/ Battalions, reservation of 10% seats for girls in all 33 Sainik Schools, induction of women officers at NDA, permission to appear in RIMC and RMS entrance exams, equal opportunities for promotion, equal opportunity for employment in field/UN Mission/ Instructor/ Sport Activities, equal opportunity of training courses to include Defence Service Staff College, Wellington and induction of 1700 women into Corps of Military Police in a phased manner to join Indian Army will certainly 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 are optimistic that the new initiatives made by the army towards women empowerment will continue further in the years to come of women led development for Viksit Bharat in Defence.

<u>Preparedness for Hybrid war, including Kinetic and Non-Kinetic warfare</u>

9. The Committee note that Indian Army remains fully prepared to address the evolving character of hybrid warfare, which encompasses both kinetic (conventional) and non-kinetic (cyber, electronic, information and space enabled dimensions). The Committee have been informed that the Army maintains a high state of operational readiness along all active borders through sustained training, realistic field exercises, infrastructure development and capability enhancement along with modernisation efforts including induction of advanced weapon systems, precision munitions, networked communications, surveillance platforms and improved mobility assets in the form of kinetic preparedness. The Committee have also been informed that the Army has strengthened its capabilities in the form of non-kinetic capabilites through cyber defence, electronic warfare, spectrum management, counter-drone systems, information operations, operationalization of dedicated cyber and electronic warfare units, enhancement of secure communication networks, leveraging artificial intelligence, data analytics and indigenous research and development to enhance situational awareness and decision superiority. The Committee have further been informed that in view of the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems, integrated counter-drone grids and electronic counter-measure systems have been progressively deployed. The Committee note that the Army is aligned with the national vision for Multi-Domain Operations, ensuring coordinated employment of land, air, cyber, space and information capabilities and also working on Civil-Military Cooperation. The Committee understand that

preparedness in hybrid war, including kinetic and non-kinetic warfare is need of the hour for sustaining strongly in the present changing warfare system. The Committee therefore strongly emphasizes towards the preparedness of Army for modern warfare. The Committee recommend the Ministry to undertake all out efforts in exploring new avenues in the field of kinetic, non-kinetic and hybrid capabilities for achieving the target to build our nation impenetrable during war like situations in future.

<u>Role of Army during humanitarian assistance and disaster</u>

10. Role of the Army in providing relief during natural disasters and calamities is yet another success story. The Committee have been informed that despite its extensive operational commitments, the Indian Army remains at the forefront of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. During 2025, the Indian Army deployed 141 columns, including Engineer Task Forces, at over 80 locations across 10 states, rescuing 28,293 civilians and providing medical aid to approximately 7,318 people. The Committee have also been informed that additionally, 133 Indian Army personnel, including medical and engineering staff are deployed in Sri Lanka in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by Cyclone Ditawah. The Committee note that presently Indian Army has deployed approximately 5,000 military personnel with 5 infantry battalions and 11 formed units, apart from staff officers and military observers, across 10 UN missions. The Committee find that India, leveraging its seven decades of exemplary service in UN-peacekeeping missions positioned itself at the forefront of peacekeeping by hosting the UN Troop Contributing Countries Chiefs' Conclave, 2025 held at New Delhi. The event brought together army chiefs, senior

military leaders, policy experts and UN officials from 32 troop-contributing nations. The Committee wish the Army all success in their endeavour, for which people of our country and friendly neighbouring countries feel secure even during calamities.

AIR FORCE

Budgetary allocation and utilization of Air Force

11. While examining Demand Nos. 19 & 20 in respect of the Air Force for the year 2026-27, the Committee find that under Revenue Section, Air Force projected Rs. 71,889.04 crore against which an allocation of Rs. 63,150.00 crore has been made. The allocation is lower by Rs. 8,738.77 crore *i.e.* 12 per cent 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, 12 per cent cut in the allocation may hamper the training and operational preparedness of the Air Force. 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.

12. The Committee are happy to find that in Capital segment, the allocation has been same as that of the projected during 2026-27 *i.e.* Rs. 88,809.97 crore. 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 reflects the 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 there has been an 18 percent increase in the IAF's defence budget allocation in the financial year 2026-27. The Committee note that the capital budget is generally 52 percent of the total budget allotment. The Committee also note that expenditure on domestic procurement has increased over a period of time, and it was close to 90 percent in both the previous financial year and the current year, against the mandated target of 77 percent. The Committee have further note that the capital budget has been increased by 37 percent. Of this, 40 percent has been earmarked for new schemes. The Committee have also been informed that close to 7 percent of the budget is used for infrastructure development and the capital acquisition and infrastructure development budget has seen a positive increase over a period of time. The Committee hope and trust that the trend of enhancement will be continued in the future financial year. The Committee note that in FY 2024-25, BE allocation was Rs. 59,062.07 crore, out of which expenditure incurred to Rs. 51,426.19 crore and in FY 2025-26 (upto December 2025). During the year 2025-26, out of BE allocation Rs.64,811.68 the expenditure incurred to Rs. 50,675.77 crore. The Committee are hopeful that the Ministry will ensure that the allocated funds are fruitfully and fully utilized in by Air Force so that modernisation trajectory of Air Force is will further augmented.

<u>Percentage Share of Air Force Budget</u>

13. 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 8.83 per cent of DSE in

2021-22 to 10.80 per cent in 2026-27. The Committee find that although there is a marginal decrease the capital budget share of AirForce, in term of percentage, at the same time in FY 2026-27, the overall percentage has been increased from 24.16 per cent in the year 2021-22 to 25.99 per cent in 2026-27. The Committee are of the considered view that in view of the current geo-political scenario and highly air-centric modern warfare today, the overall percentage share of Air Force in the DSE budget needs to be increased further to help galvanise the Indian Air Force and keep the country combat ready for any air-centric advanced warfare.

Budget for Modernization

14. The Committee note that in the Financial Year 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 59,646.83 crore was allocated at BE stage under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head against which expenditure of Rs. 48,182.18 crore has been incurred till December, 2025. Further, through supplementary reply the Committee have been informed that an amount of Rs. 54,123.91 crore (89.58%) has been utilized under the IAF Capital Acquisition Budget as on 17.02.2026. In BE 2026-27, an amount of Rs. 83,257.47 crore has been allotted under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. Further, during oral evidence, the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee that the capital budget earmarked for modernization will primarily be utilized for acquiring combat platforms and critical combat enablers like multi-role fighter aircraft, flight refuellers, medium transport aircraft and various unmanned aerial systems and alongwith the platforms there is also a proposal to acquire air-to-air, air-to-ground, and surface-to-air guided ammunition, as well

as loitering munitions. The Committee have been informed that thirty-nine airfields and nine Advance Landing Grounds are listed under the joint user category to promote civil aviation in India and are key to the Government's endeavour in providing last-mile connectivity through "Mission UDAN". Further, through supplementary reply the Committee have been informed that an amount of Rs. 41,753.96 crore (69.18%) and Rs. 18,598.70 crore (30.81%) has been earmarked against ongoing Committed Liabilities and New Schemes, respectively.

Keeping in view the modernization of the Armed Forces especially during the current geo-political scenario in the world, the Committee urge the Air Force to gainfully utilize the allocated funds for modernization and technological upgradation in armament and in the procurement of other vital platforms. The Committee further opine that a further augmentation of modernisation budget of Air Force will further improve its combat capabilities with the acquisitions of newer and latest advanced aircrafts, weapons and equipments for Air Force.

<u>Planning for development of Sixth-Generation(6G) aircrafts</u>

15. The Committee have been informed that two consortia are working on the sixth-generation aircraft. One is a consortium of the UK, Italy, and Japan and the another is a consortium of France and Germany and both are developing aircraft. The Committee have also been informed that Air Force will try to join forces with one of the consortia and begin considering a sixth-generation fighter right away with a view to ensure that they do not lag behind in achieving the target for advanced aircraft. The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) has been developed the design and discussions for its making are currently

underway. The Committee understand that in view of technical advancement of fighter aircrafts globally and to meet the present security scenario, technical upgradation of aircrafts is required on top priority for enhancement of its combat capability. The Committee recommend the Ministry to chalk out a trajectory in this regard and step forward the planning process for development and acquisition of Sixth-Generation (6G) Aircrafts which would eventually enhance India's air domain capabilities in today's highly air-centric modern warfare. The progress made in this regard may kindly be intimated to the Committee at the time of furnishing the Action Taken Notes.

<u>Indigenization</u>

16. The Committee note that Indian Air Force is committed towards self-reliance and is providing full-fledged support to the national objectives. The Committee have been informed that in order to spearhead innovation and indigenisation, the Indian Air Force has formed a new directorate, named Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD) which actively interacts with industries, R&D institutions and academia to ascertain niche technologies in aerospace domain and evolve modus operandi to convert them into tactical and strategic war fighting solutions utilising indigenous resources. During deliberations also, a representative of the Air Force apprised the Committee that Indian Air Force stress on self-reliance dates back to 1958, when Kanpur-1 was conceived and built at the Air Force Station in Kanpur. Thereafter, from Marut to Tejas, Dhruv to Prachand, the Indian Air Force has been fully committed to self-reliance. The Committee have also been informed that in financial year 2024-2025 and the current financial year, Air Force have spent approximately 90 percent of their allocated capital budget on

domestic resources. Air Force have also signed some major acquisition contracts with private industries. The iDEX, TDF and MAKE cases have generated business opportunities worth over ₹13,000 crore in the defence manufacturing ecosystem. The Committee have been informed that expenditure of Air Force on capital acquisition from domestic sources for FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 is Rs. 29,441.12 crore, Rs. 42,593.85 crore and Rs. 43,469.34 crore, respectively.

The Committee note that the Indian Air Force has also published an IPR policy, aligned with India's mission of "Gyan Shakti" which will foster creativity and innovation. The Committee are happy to note that the current and future major acquisition projects such as multirole fighter aircraft, medium transport aircraft and unmanned aerial systems are entirely based on "Make-in-India" initiatives. The Committee find that for minimizing the effect of geo-political uncertainties and to achieve supply chain resilience, the defence sector may progressively become self-reliant. The Committee have also been informed that the need of the hour is to progressively achieve self-reliance in the defence sector and in these efforts, the 'AMCA' fighter aircraft by 2035 will be proved an inflection point and also help Air Force in indigenously developing some critically niche technologies related to aerospace. The Committee understand that 100 per cent indigenization is not possible and feasible in a short period of time, nevertheless, while commending the efforts of Air Force towards indigenization, the Committee recommend that constant endeavours be made to achieve their goals in a phased manner and eventually making the country self reliant in this field.

Operational preparedness and combat capabilities

17. The Committee note that the roles and functions of Air Force include offensive strikes against enemy vital areas and centers of gravity during combat and defending Indian airspace at all the times. The Committee also note that to support both of these tasks, Air Force perform critical roles such as intelligence surveillance for enemy positions and air transfer operations to relocate our troops from one battle zone to another. In all these roles, the Air Force plays an important role in coordinated operations with the Army and Navy. The Committee further note that the Indian Air Force is responsible for air defence of the Indian airspace. More than thirty lakh aircraft are closely monitored by radar network of Air Force every year and this onerous responsibility is executed while ensuring required flexibility for civil traffic.

The Committee have been informed that the fighter aircraft remains the main instrument of prosecuting the air war and conversely for air defence too and these aircraft are equipped with air-to-air and air-to-surface weapons for self-protection. The Committee have also been informed that Air Force is working on the procurement and upgradation of new aircrafts to maintain our combat capabilities. Furthermore, the IAF is fully participating in the development and design (D&D) of the LCA Mark 2 and AMCA. The Committee note that among the combat-capable helicopters, Apache, Prachand and ALH Mark 4 are also fully operational in the IAF and apart from these, surface to surface missiles like BrahMos and light ammunition along with under development space systems also enhance our strike capability. The Committee have been further apprised that Critical Combat Enablers like Airborne Early Warning Aircraft,

flight refuellers and special Electronic Intelligence and surveillance platforms are vital in current warfare. The Committee also note that the Indian Air Force leads six Integrated Working Groups, comprising the Hawk, Prachand, Apache, Dornier and Akash missile systems and the Air Force is also leading service for cyber and EW training. The Committee are also happy to note that this year, the Indian Air Force has conducted a number of transoceanic bilateral and multilateral exercises, both within and outside the country.

In this regard, the Committee understand that in view of the present warfare system Air Force is playing a vital role in combat and defending Indian airspace. The Committee commends the Indian Air Force for its commendable role during *Operation Sindoor*. By executing precision strikes with advanced aerial platforms and integrating indigenous technologies, the Air Force demonstrated exceptional professionalism and operational readiness. Its swift deployment, accurate targeting, and seamless coordination with ground forces ensured the success of the mission, significantly degrading hostile infrastructure. The Committee emphasize upon the Ministry that such capabilities underscore the importance of continued investment in modern air power to maintain India's strategic edge and safeguard national security. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministy to make all necessary efforts for providing adequate financial support for acquiring latest advanced aircrafts, weapons and equipments required to meet the challenges of present geo-political scenario so that preparedness and combat capability of Air force are enhanced to a significant level.

During oral evidence the representative of Air Force has also apprised the Committee that space domain is a key force

enabler, hence the Air Force has formed a Space Training Cell at its College of Air Warfare, which has become a nodal training centre. The Committee have been informed that near-space is a crucial domain impacting combat capability today. The Indian Air Force doctrine for near-space operations is also under development. To enhance air defence effectiveness, assets from all armed forces and civil aviation have been integrated. The Committee have also been apprised that the Air Force's responsibility and limits for aerospace extends to a range of approximately 20 kilometers and are currently working to expand this area to include near-space as many hypersonic ballistic missiles fly within this range. Therefore, Air force needs to work upon this area to neutralize them. Air Force want to establish space capabilities include ISR, position and timing and communications. These are handled by the Defense Space Agency.

The Committee understand that recently there is a paradigm shift in the technology used in fighting a war and the responsibility of Air Force has been extended also to space capability with a view to protect our aerospace. In this regard, the Committee desire that IAF should be provided with adequate financial resources and support to meet the requirement of near-space operations so that our nation should stand firmly at par with other global players in the field of space capability.

<u>Role of Air Force during Human assistance and disaster</u>

18. The Committee have been informed that that during this year on the natural disasters, the Air Force efficiently delivered relief materials and evacuated people from the affected areas. These missions were delivered over 145 tons of relief supplies

and rescued over 2,000 people. The Committee have also been informed that HADR has not been limited to our national boundary due to prevailing geo-political situations, Indian citizens have been safely evacuated from troubled areas, which is a testimony to our mobility, reach and responsiveness. The Committee note that more than 500 tonnes of relief material has been delivered through these missions and more than 2,800 civilians have been rescued. In this regard, the Committee wish the Air Force all success in their endeavour to play a vital role in evacuation of citizens residing foreign countries during war like situation and also extending human assistance in need during calamity or disaster within the country and abroad.

NAVY

Budgetary allocation and utilization of Navy

19. The Committee understand that the Indian Navy plays a crucial role in maintaining security in the region and fostering peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The Indian Navy faces evolving threats both conventional and sub-conventional sources, requiring continuous adaptation to safeguard maritime interests. To maintain high Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), the Navy deploys assets along critical sea routes and chokepoints. Additionally, in alignment with India's security vision- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)- the Indian Navy actively collaborates with partner nations in the IOR, enhancing their naval capabilities and strengthening maritime infrastructure through training, platform transfers, and technical assistance. In this regard, a representative of Navy, during the presentation before the Committee, stated that total budget allocation for Navy during FY

2024-25 was Rs. 90998.95 crore out of which expenditure incurred of Rs. 79461.90 crore, in FY 2025-26 allocation was Rs. 97149.80 crore out of which 87089.27 crore expenditure incurred (upto December) and a major share in the Navy's budget for FY 2026-27 *i.e.* Rs. 1,07,549.57 crore is devoted towards the substantial increase in capital expenditure.

The Committee find that under Capital Head in BE 2026-27, allocation has been same as that of projected of Rs. 70,063.31 crore. The allocation of BE 2026-27 shows an increase of Rs. 4710.49 crore in comparison to BE 2025-26. The Committee are of the considered view that increase in capital segment of the Navy budget will further help in strengthening the Indian Navy towards modernization of naval fleets, warships and equipments and development of advanced naval combat capabilities.

During FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 allocation under revenue head was Rs. 32,284.20 crore, Rs. 32,778.73 crore and Rs. 38,149.80 crore, respectively. The Committee find that under revenue head, the BE allocation in 2026-27 is, higher than the previous years i.e. Rs. 46,800.00 crore. Noticing a higher projection during 2026-27, the Committee hope that the Ministry would provide additional grant during the supplementary/revised stage, if needed, to carry out their modernisation plan.

Budget for Modernization

20. The Committee note that since 2021, there has been a continuous increase in the Navy's budget and Navy has been allocated a total Rs. 1,07,549.57 crores for FY 2026-27. The Committee have been apprised that in FY 2025-26, Navy (including Jt. Staff) was allocated Rs. 62,975.97 crore and Rs.

67,236.23 crore at BE and RE stage, respectively, under Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Head. Against these allocations, an expenditure of Rs. 48,187.57 crore has been incurred upto December, 2025. Further, in BE 2026-27, an allocation of Rs. 67,524.45 crore has been made to Navy (including Jt. Staff) under Modernisation (Capital Acquisition) Head. The Committee have been informed that in case the expenditures exceed, the allocation will be provided in the revised estimates by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee have also been informed that capital budget allocations are also increasing as needed, reflecting our focus on capability development. The Committee are happy to note that domestic to foreign capital expenditure ratio has also been steadily increasing since 2020 and the increase in domestic expenditure is attributed to the Government's indigenization efforts. The Committee note that the Navy's day-to-day operations and maintenance costs are paid from the revenue budget which is consistent with the projected expenditure. The Committee also note that the Navy has achieved a healthy capital-to-revenue ratio and has continuously improveing it as a result of our capability-driven approach.

The Committee further note that consistent budgetary support in the future is essential for the Navy's sustained planned growth and Navy are confident that they will become even stronger and more capable in the coming years. The Committee have also been informed that the Indian Navy Incubation Centre for Artificial Intelligence (INICAI) has been working continuously for the last three years to institutionalize AI adoption. The dedicated compute center CRYSTAL with 24 GPUs is being used for the development, training and testing of

advanced AI models. The Committee through supplementary reply have been informed that the fund allocated to Navy under Capital Acquisition (Modernization) Head of Accounts was utilized to support several new schemes in addition to supporting committed liabilities covering ongoing cases. The significant new projects include contract for 26 Rafale-M Aircraft, follow on Support/Follow on Supply Support of MH60R Helicopters and Heavy Weight Torpedoes for Scorpene class submarines, among other projects. The Committee have been informed further that out of the Modernization Budget, the Navy has been allocated Rs.47,748.31 Cr (73.57%) for Committed Liabilities and Rs.17,146.28 Cr (26.43%) for New Schemes.

Keeping in view the urgent requirement of modernization of the Armed Forces in view of the current global geo-political scenario, the Committee are hopeful that Navy shall gainfully utilize the allocated fund for modernization and technological upgradation in their platforms, infrastructure and armaments on priority for enhancing the naval capabilities, latest and advanced technology, naval fleets, equipments, vessels, weapons, etc. at par with the global standards.

<u>Indigenisation</u>

21. During the oral evidence, the representative of Navy informed the Committee that the country has made significant progress in bridging the gap with other nations in the area of self-reliance, however, the non-availability of critical engines due to continued dependence on foreign OEMs has hampered the progress. The Indian Navy has taken up this issue on a mission mode. The Committee note that the important cases related to the development of main propulsion systems are in progress

under the Make-I and Technology Development Fund schemes. The Committee have been informed that the Indian Navy has been working towards steadily increasing Indigenous content in shipbuilding projects over the years, reaching approximately 76% in INS Vikrant and continuous efforts are being made with DRDO and industry to increase indigenization across the entire spectrum of weapons and sensors. The Committee have also been informed that self-reliance has been the cornerstone of the Indian Navy's capability development across all domains of naval warfare and under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Navy is actively providing problem statements to the TDF and iDEX. The Committee find that there has been a significant increase in the number of indigenisation cases progressed by the Navy under various Government of India schemes, from approximately 4 cases in 2019 to 284 cases in 2025. The Indian Navy is the largest contributor to the iDEX ecosystem with 198 challenges, accounting for approximately 35% of the total. 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.

Operational Preparedness and anti-narcotic operations

22. The Committee note that the Cabinet Committee on Security has assigned overall responsibility for maritime security to the Indian Navy and this is being carried out in close coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and other stakeholders. The Committee also note that the Navy has four main roles: military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign. The

various functions under each role have also been listed and to achieve these functions, naval forces are deployed on overlapping missions while maintaining a continuous presence at sea. The Committee have been informed that for performing effectively these roles, the Navy need to be continuously monitored India's 11,100 km long coastline, 1,379 islands and 2.2 million square km of Exclusive Economic Zone through Maritime Domes Awareness. The Committee have also been apprised that this maritime domain awareness serves as the backbone of all naval operations which is ensured through the deployment of naval assets across all five domains, 24/7 into 365.

The Committee have been further informed that since November 2023, the Indian Navy has deployed 48 capital ships in the Gulf of Aden, resulting in the safe transit of approximately 16.5 million metric tonnes of cargo on board 392 merchant vessels with an estimated economic value of approximately US$ 7 billion.

The Committee note that Anti-piracy efforts have resulted in the boarding of over a thousand vessels and the apprehension of 62 pirates who were suitably dealt with by the provision of Maritime Piracy Act, 2022. Over 170 maritime incidents have been reported in the region in the past year in which lives of more than 570 people could be saved. The Committee further note that in anti-narcotics operations which was undertaken in March 2025, the Indian Navy's frontline frigate INS Tarkash successfully intercepted 2,500 kg of narcotics in the Western Indian Ocean. During oral evidence, the Committee have been apprised that whatever the Navy seizes, all those things are handed over to the Narcotics Control Board. Expressing their satisfaction over the role and operational preparedness of the

Indian Navy, the Committee are hopeful that keeping in view the drastic changes in the modern warfare tactics, the Navy will continue to protect the maritime zone and prevent piracy and other maritime security threats.

Human assistance and disaster relief operations

23. During deliberations, a representative of the Navy informed the Committee that the Navy has conducted several humanitarian assistance in disaster relief, search and rescue and medical evacuation missions particularly notable among these are Operation Brahma and Operation Sagar Bandhu which have been successfully completed recently. The Committee have been informed that during Operation Brahma the first relief consignment from India, weighing 10 tons departed through INS Savitri on 29th March 2025 and a total 512 tons of relief materials were delivered to Myanmar. The Committee have also been informed that during Ditwaha Cyclone in Sri Lanka, Naval ships Vikrant and Udayagiri were present in Colombo and acted as first responders. On 29 November, 2025 approximately 10 tons of relief material was provided and three Chetak helicopters from Vikrant safely rescued eight stranded Sri Lankan civilians. A total of 969 tons of relief material was provided by the Indian Navy which is one of the largest assistance in recent years. In this regard, the Committee wish the Navy all success in their endeavour to act as first responder in extending human assistance and supplying essential items in need during calamity or disaster occurred within the country and also abroad.

JOINT STAFF

Budget

24. The Committee note that during the year 2026-27, against the projection of Rs. 8,253.47 crore an allocation of Rs. 7,238.72 crore has been provided for Joint Staff.The Committee understand that Joint Staff continued to play a crucial role in enhancing jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Froces through formulation of joint doctrines, conduct of integrated training and exercise and development of unified operational strategies. The Committee note that the Joint Ops Staff at HQ IDS coordinates Tri-Services operational issues in consultation with the three Service HQs through the COSC established Joint Operational Committee (JOCOM) and Joint Operational Logistics Committees (JOLC). The Committee also note that the issues of operational relevance to the three services, including organisation, structures and procedures are brought to JOCOM periodically and consensus arrived by discussions and deliberations between the stakeholders. The Committee further note that Tri-Service operational issues at the SHQ level are handled by the Joint Ops Staff at HQ IDS and inputs of the same provided to DMA through staff channels. The Committee have also been informed that a Future Operations Analysis Group is proposed to be established at Headquarter IDS to develop tactics, techniques, procedures and operational art for fighting future wars. Jointness and integration in networking, communications, aerospace safety, logistics and maintenance are the major focus areas identified.

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, at the supplementary/revised stage in order to further strengthen the Joint Staff.

Operationalization of theatre commands

25. The Committee note that with a view to fast track the process of Theaterisation, a dedicated team of officers from all three Services has been formed under the Chief of Integrated Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC). The Committee also note that three Joint Staff Officers undertake study of global military organisations as well as organise discussions among the three Services to streamline the process of reorganisation. The Committee further note that issues that merit consensus building are discussed in the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) to arrive at a common understanding and following a collaborative approach. The Joint Staff has been able to take forward the process of Theaterisation to an advanced stage. The Committee have been informed that the Joint Staff at HQ IDS will continue to coordinate operational issues at Theatres with the three SHQs during the operationalisation process and thereafter. The Committee have also been informed that it is envisaged that all operational coordination issues between Theatres as well as with Services would be coordinated through the Joint Ops Staff on the structures that are approved. The Committee would like to be informed of the developments in this regard at the time of furnishing the Action Taken replies.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

Budget

26. The Committee note that close to 64 lakh beneficiaries including Ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents are presently availing ECHS benefits. In the financial year 2025-26, the projection of ECHS was Rs. 12017.22 crore, however, the allocation was i.e. Rs. 8317.00 crore, thereby there was a deduction of Rs. 3700.22 crore. The expenditure during FY 2025-26 was Rs. 9263.29 crore till 31 January, 2026. The Committee have also been informed that the during the year 2025-26, the allocation at BE stage i.e Rs. 8317 crore has been enhanced to Rs. 11000 crore which is an increase of Rs. 2683.00 crore During the FY 2026-27 the projection was Rs. 15827.44 crore, however, allocation was Rs. 12100.00 crore. During oral evidence, the representatives of ECHS informed the Committee that the ECHS budget in 2021-22 was ₹4,865 crore which has been increased by 225 percent in four years. The Committee have been informed that the allocation for the scheme is increasing much faster than other schemes. The expenditure under this scheme, which treats ex-servicemen, is cashless and capless.

The Committee at this stage recommend that the budget allocated at BE or RE stage may be fully utilized as such expenditure is meant for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen of our country.

Vacancies in ECHS Polyclinics

27. The Committee find that there is a marginal gap between authorized and actual manpower at ECHS Polyclinics in some posts. The Committee have been informed that vacancies arise primarily due to the non-availability of Specialists in small

towns and remote areas and this vacancy position is a dynamic figure and changes. The Committee note that ECHS Polyclinics are functioning with contractual manpower authorised by the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence from time to time and as on January 2026, a total of 8,252 contractual Medical/ Dental Officers, specialists, para medical staff and non-medical staff vacancies have been allocated to Polyclinics across the country including Nepal. The Committee are happy to know that the Government has revised upwards the remunerations of ECHS contractual employees with effect from 24 July 2025 with a view to improve the interest and response for taking up contractual assignments with ECHS. Further, Traveling Allowance/ Dearness Allowance has also been granted to these contractual employees.

Recognizing that the timely filling of vacancies in hospitals and polyclinics will significantly strengthen healthcare services for ex-servicemen, the Committee recommend that these vacancies be addressed in a time-bound manner. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

<u>Development of IT Infrastructure for ECHS</u>

28. The Committee have been informed that an unified system based on Micro Service Architecture has been envisaged with an aim to digitally transform the healthcare service delivery ecosystem of ECHS and develop a unified IT system for seamless and end-to-end management of scheme operations by providing a comprehensive, integrated and automated platform which can efficiently drive the inputs, processes and scheme outcomes. The Committee have also been apprised that the project is to be developed through an 'In-house Capability

Development Programme' so that the digitalization process will enable the ECHS eco-system to operate more efficiently, improve access and quality to healthcare services for ex-servicemen and their dependent families and reduce the burden on the manual system. The Committee appreciate the efforts taken by ECHS towards digitalization process of healthcare system and wish them all success in their endeavour. The Committee recommend for timely completion of the projects which are underway so that ECHS eco-system may function more efficiently in providing healthcare facilities to Ex Servicemen and their dependants. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the final development of the unified IT system and its implementation in the eco-system of ECHS at the time of furnishing the Action Take replies.

<u>Payment of pending bills by ECHS to empanelled private hospitals</u>

29. The Committee note that the revenue budget of ECHS is allocated internally under four main heads of expenditure, these are Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE), Medical Stores, Salary and Others. The Committee also note that during FY 2026-27 BE allocation is Rs. 12100 crore. The Committee have been informed that approximately 78% of ECHS budget allocation is planned for reimbursement of medical bills (Medical Treatment Related Expenditure) and about 15% for procurement of medicines and medical stores. 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 Bill processing is a dynamic and ongoing process and normally, it takes approx. two months for the processing a medical bill of an empanelled hospital. The Committee also note

that this period can get extended in case a claim is put under the 'Need More Information (NMI)' observation, however, all efforts are made to clear outstanding bills in a time bound manner. The Committee have also been informed that several steps have been taken to ensure efficient and time settlement of bills of ECHS empanned hospitals i.e. continuously monitoring Turn Around Time (TAT) with the Bill Processing Agencies (BPA), monitoring of response time for the 'Need More Information (NMI)' cases with empanelled hospitals for faster processing to such bills that require further information/clarification from hospitals, assignment of more doctors to Regional Centres (RCs) facing 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 and forwarding Bills of Regional Centres with higher load to Regional Centres with lower bill loads to hasten processing.

During oral evidence, the representative of the Department also apprised the Committee that the allocation received is not in proportion to the expenditure amount admitted that there is a need to for increase the allocation further. The Committee understand that inflated bills from empanelled hospitals are leading to multiple review cycles, increasing approval times. The Committee hope that adequate fund are allocated to ECHS including additional fund at supplementary stage as and when required, so that the inconvenience being faced by the ESM could be resolved, and the private hospitals may not find a reason for rejecting ESM for admission and treatment.

The Committee express their concern that the issue of pendency surfaces before the Committee during the examination

of DFGs every year. The Committee urges the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare to address that pending bills settlement issue on priority. Efforts should be made for reducing the pendency to the minimum. This will be in the overall welfare interests of the Ex-servicemen and their dependants. In this regard, the Committee would also like to be further 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.

<u>ECHS in far-flung areas</u>

30. The Committee note that ECHS is systematically increasing the number of polyclinics and upgrading existing ones so that more veterans, including those in remote regions, can access healthcare without traveling long distances. The Committee also note that ECHS has launched Tele-Consultation through ECHS Services Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (e-SeHAT) module pan India which enables beneficiaries in obtaining online tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the polyclinics. The initiative aim is to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations and it shall also facilitate beneficiaries settled in remote and far-flung areas. The Committee further note that in order to extend the reach to rural and remote locations, a Pilot

Project for three Mobile Medical Units (MMU) on the lines of National Health Mission at the existing Type 'E' Polyclinics (Rampur, Tenga/Tura and Poonch) was initiated on 03 November, 2025.

The Committee have also been informed that these MMUs will extend healthcare facilities to beneficiaries settled at remote, farflung areas with provision of basic diagnostics, lab investigations, issue of medicines and grant of referral on need basis thus resulting in provisioning of medical services and healthcare to beneficiaries at their doorstep. Further, the requirement of new Polyclinics is reviewed from time to time with an objective to serve a larger beneficiary population.

The Committee while expressing their satisfaction over increase in ECHS coverage in far-flung and distant areas over the the years, and devising of new methods and initiatives to help ESM through ECHS, at the same urge the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare to continue their efforts for further expansion of ECHS to remote and untouched areas by constructing more new polyclinics and deploying more Mobile Medical Units. The Committee hope that these new proposed arrangements will be put in place in the coming years.

DIRECTOR GENERAL ARMED FORCE MEDICAL SERVICES (DGAFMS)

DGAFMS

31. The Committee note that the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) provides dedicated, dependable and comprensive health care to Defence Personnel and their dependents and consists of Medical Services of the Army, Navy and Air Force under the Director General, Armed Forces Medical

Services (DGAFMS). The Committee also note that the organization of the office of DGAFMS, which comes directly under the Ministry of Defence comprises 10 lieutenant generals, 41 major generals, 185 brigadiers, and 732 select colonels. The Committee have been informed that the heads of medical services of Army, Navy and Air Force will be responsible for functioning of these services under the respective Service Chiefs in accordance with any general policy directions that may be given by the DGAFMS and are the Medical Advisors to their respective Services. The Committee have also been apprised that the AFMS is always striving to upgrade the infrastructure and equipment profile of its hospitals and other medical establishments and procurement of modern electromedical equipment empowering AFMS hospitals with latest diagnostic and therapeutic tools have led to a greater satisfaction among its clientele alongwith research in AFMS that has ensured optimal progress in modern medical technology for treatment and diagnosis of diseases. Also, the professional training of doctors in AFMS has ensured in-house capability of specialists and super specialist medical care.

During oral evidence the representative of DGAFMS through a presentation apprised the Committee that an amount of Rs. 1729.6278 crore has been allotted under Revenue head and Rs. 850.0000 crore under Capital head for the FY 2026-27. As regards, utilization of allocated Funds for FY 2025-26 (till December 2025) i.e. Rs. 650 crore and 1744.42 crore (approx.) under Revenue head and Capital head, respectively. They stated that the Funds allotted were adequate. The Committee note that some major projects are underway for upgradation/modernization of the infrastructure i.e. Command

Hospital (Central Command) Lucknow, Base Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, Command Hospital (Air Force) Bangalore, 178 Military Hospital, 155 Base Hospital, Military Hospital, Meerut, Military Hospital, Yol, 92 Base Hospital, 425 Field Hospital and Indian Naval Hospital Ship, Pantanjali, Karwar and in addition up-gradation of 180 Military Hospital from 148 beds to 250 beds, 153 General Hospital from 200 beds to 300 beds and raising of 75 bedded Military Hospital at Along have been sanctioned by competent authority as part of capability development along northern borders. While appreciating the role and responsibilities of DGAFMS in medical services, the Committee recommend the Ministry to provide adequate financial grants to DGAFMS in case of setting up of new hospitals/medical facilities and also upgradation of existing hospitals which are required for serving personnel of the Armed Forces.

<u>Role of AFMS in War, Peace and HADR duties</u>

32. The Committee observe that the mission of the AFMS is to deliver comprehensive medical care of the highest standards during operations as well as peacetime, within the country as well as abroad, alongwith seamless medical logistics support, research, and training. The Committee also note that the DGAFMS has an elaborate mechanism of reviewing and delivering medical care across the country including border and remote areas across the three services including physical visits and periodic online reviews by senior AFMS officers to these areas. The Committee also note that the DGAFMS has visited medical units of Headquarters 15 Corps and medical units of Headquarters 16 Corps in Jammu & Kashmir in the month of April and June, 2025, respectively. In addition, various functionaries including Director Generals of Medical Services

(DGsMS) of respective Services (Army/ Navy/ Air Force) also visit medical facilities located pan India including border areas as part of familiarization visit and departmental inspections. The Committee have been informed that existing facilities in the border areas are essentially meant for providing combat medical support to soldiers deployed along International Border, Line of Actual Control and Line of Control of the nation. The Committee have also been apprised that the terrain constraints including weather and operational limitations often lead to unique medical challenges. The Committee note that Field Hospitals, Station Medicare Centres and Sick Bays are equipped with necessary infrastructure and terrain related medical equipment for providing combatants optimal medical support. The Committee are happy to know that the Armed Forces Medical Services conducts HDR operations overseas. The Committee also find that recently in Myanmar, more than 2,500 casualties were treated and also in Sri Lanka, 7,500 casualties and 500 surgeries were done.

The Committee wish the AFMS all success in their endeavour, for which armed force personal feel secure during war and peace time. The Committee also urge AFMS to explore new avenues for providing medical related sevices during pandemic like situations.

<u>Training and Medical Research in AFMS</u>

33. The Committee note that the Armed Forces Medical Services trains all kinds of medical, postgraduates and nursing students and there are 220 nursing cadets who are taken in every year alongside several research and innovation practices and innovative activities occurs in the AFMS. The Committee also

note that the Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine has been established and it participated in a one-hour round table discussion at the AI Impact Summit. During oral evidence the representative of AFMS through a presentation apprised the Committee that Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) established by AFMS at Army Hospital Research and Referral and the Armed Forces Medical College which aims at enhancing molecular diagnostic capabilities. Morevoer, the nation's first 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 ten years. Further, in-Principle approval of MoD has been accorded for establishment of an ICMR-AFMS Joint High Altitude Research Centre at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh. The Committee have also been informed that there are several collaborative projects and several collaborations and MoUs with several premier institutions around the country, such as the IITs, DPG, Chandigarh, the IISC and the MHFW.

The Committee were further informed that there are several collaborative projects ongoing, including with the ICMR and the National Health Research Priority, which serves to start projects on high-altitude combat, marine and aerospace medicine and in this regard seven such projects have been approved. The Committee note that there is a Center of Advanced Research, which is the AFS Biomedical Innovations Validation Integration Center in AFMC. The Committee also note AFMS has contributed to the One Health Mission by providing expertise in various fields and is part of the One Health Conclave and which directly coordinates with various organizations such as the MEA, the MHFW, as well as MHA, the NDRF, the NACCO, and the CPCB. 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 modern technologies, medical advancements and innovations with the aim of providing efficient medical facilites 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.

Initiatives for Automation/Digitization in AFMS

34. The initiatives of the AFMS is yet another success story which need special mention. The Committee note that some initiatives have been taken in the field of automation/digitization in AFMS including operationalisation of e-Aushadi which is a internet based software application and all medical units of AFMS are presently using these modules for procurement and demand of consumables in medical stores. An another initiative is Operationalisation of e-Upkaran which is an online inventory management application for non-expendable medical stores and facilitates indenting, inventory management of medical equipment from the most peripheral unit till the largest tertiary care hospital. The third is Ni-KSHAY portal which is a web-based patient management system for Tuberculosis control under the National Tuberculosis Elimination which helps health functionaries to register Tuberculosis cases for testing, treatment and follow up. The Committee have also been informed that the DGAFMS has signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), Ministry of Electronics and IT for co-development of Digital Healthcare solutions. The Committee feel that such facilities will go a long way in catering to the needs of the Armed Forces personnel. The Committee wish the AFMS all success in their endeavour in which the requirements and necessities of Armed Force Personnel should be fulfilled in a better way.

New Delhi;	**RADHA MOHAN SINGH**
16 March, 2026	**Chairperson**
25 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)	**Standing Committee on Defence**

Annexure

Regional Centre wise ECHS Beneficiary Base

(as on 31 DEC 2025)

Name of Regional Centres	Name of Polyclinic	Type of Polyclinic	Beneficiary Base
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	C	41302
	Ajmer	C	21214
	Barmer (Jalipa)	D	2688
	Balesar	D	560
	Bhilwara	D	2147
	Bhuj	D	2425
	Dungarpur	D	341
	Jaisalmer	D	2321
	Jamnagar	D	8996
	Jodhpur	A	42711
	Pali	D	1854
	Rajkot	D	9600
	Rajsamand	D	1558
	Shergarh	D	3748
	Surat	D	2558
	Udaipur	D	4497
	Vadodara	D	18746
Allahabad	Allahabad	A	41630
	Azamgarh	D	10566
	Ballia	C	17881
	Banda	D	4659
	Basti	D	2380
	Deoria	C	6452
	Faizabad	D	9716
	Ghazipur	B	26350
	Gonda	D	2286
	Gorakhpur	B	29064
	Jaunpur	D	2550
	Mirzapur	D	1741
	Pratapgarh	D	5793
	Sultanpur	C	8040
	Varanasi	B	47684
Ambala	Ambala	A	38487

	Gohana	D	6393
	Kaithal	D	8627
	Karnal	C	12759
	Kharkhoda	D	3356
	Kurukshetra	D	15656
	Nabha	D	5600
	Nahan	D	5514
	Naraingarh	D	7590
	Panipat	C	12423
	Patiala	A	22183
	Samana	D	4067
	Sangrur	B	25808
	Sonepat	B	15869
	Yamunanagar	C	14854
Bangalore	Bangalore (Urban)	A	56773
	Belgaum	A	60753
	Bagalkote	C	
	Bijapur	D	13340
	Dharwad	D	17320
	Gulbarga	D	1711
	Hassan	D	6053
	Kolar	D	6253
	Madikeri	C	5729
	Mangalore	D	8610
	MEG Centre Bangalore	D	12273
	Mysore	D	10879
	Shimoga	D	5468
	Tumkur	D	13907
	Virarajendrapet	D	3413
	Bangalore Whitefield	D	
	Yelahanka (Bangalore)	D	12621
Bareilly	Agra	A	45273
	Almora	B	10830
	Badaun	B	3747
	Bageshwar	D	10039
	Baghpat	D	10210
	Banbasa	B	19714
	Bareilly	A	28072
	Bijnore	D	3261

	Bulandshahar	D	27448
	Etah	D	13386
	Firozabad	D	9488
	Haldwani	A	46590
	Hempur	D	12318
	Mainpuri	D	14583
	Meerut	C	66308
	Meerut II	A	1
	Moradabad	D	4697
	Muzaffarnagar	A	8702
	Rampur	D	1066
	Ranikhet	D	3049
	Rudrapur	D	7104
	Shahjahanpur	D	4420
Bhubaneshwar	Angul	D	5888
	Balasore	D	14395
	Berhamapur	B	993
	Bhawanipatna	D	51496
	Bhubneswar	D	18864
	Cuttack	C	
	Dhenkanal	D	6057
	Puri	D	2338
	Rourkela	D	
	Sambalpur	D	8414
Chandimandir	Barnala	D	11238
	Bilaspur	A	5907
	Chandigarh	A	23543
	Chandimandir	D	29696
	Doraha	C	9735
	Fatehgarh Sahib	D	11802
	Ghumarvin	A	13422
	Jagraon	B	11099
	Ludhiana	B	31820
	Nalagarh	D	
	Mohali	D	21898
	Rampur	C	26836
	Samrala	C	9940
	Shimla	D	1736
	Solan	C	6709

Chennai	Avadi	C	11400
	Chennai	B	17761
	Chennai (Island Ground)	D	4837
	Cuddalore	D	3504
	Kanchipuram	C	2518
	Kumbakonum	D	4118
	Nagapattinam	D	3330
	Port Blair	D	3031
	Puducherry	D	3232
	Tambaram	D	7771
	Thanjavur	D	6434
	Thiruvannamalai	C	11531
	Vellore	A	45315
	Villupuram	D	6288
Coimbatore	Coimbatore	C	14179
	Dindigul	D	9200
	Erode	D	2386
	Krishnagiri	C	22854
	Madurai	D	22316
	Ramanathapuram	D	3731
	Salem	C	12623
	Sivagangai	C	6197
	Srivilliputtur	C	13533
	Theni	D	17033
	Tiruchirapalli	D	14252
	Wellington	C	5409
Dehradun	Clement Town	A	1
	Joshimath	B	100
	Karanprayag (Gopeshwar)	B	7953
	Landsdowne	C	923
	Pauri Garhwal	D	6204
	Raiwala	D	14251
	Roorkee	C	18445
	Rudraprayag	D	5130
	Saharanpur (Sarsawa)	D	5507
	Tehri	D	2867
	Uttarkashi	D	2345
	Vikasnagar	C	7523

Delhi-I	Delhi Cantt (BHDC)	A	95611
	Faridabad	A	16839
	Gurgaon	A	31542
	Gurgaon (Sohana Road)	D	35269
	Khanpur	C	6077
	Palwal	B	18467
	Dwaraka	B	16
	Shakurbasti	B	11505
Delhi-II	East Delhi Area	B	3062
	Ghaziabad (Hindon)	A	31941
	Greater Noida	A	19730
	Lodhi Road (New Delhi)	A	20217
	Noida	A	27048
	Sec 21 JVV Noida	C	
	Sec 82 Noida	D	
	Timarpur	D	6271
Guwahati	Agartala	D	4430
	Aizawl	D	7176
	Bongaigaon	D	9315
	Churachandpur	D	5131
	Dhubri	D	1117
	Dibrugarh	D	3124
	Dimapur	D	5916
	Goalpara	D	1077
	Guwahati	D	22708
	Jorhat	D	14652
	Lakhimpur	D	2480
	Lunglei	D	659
	Masimpur	D	9048
	Misamari	D	459
	Nagaon (Lanka)	D	7079
	Shillong	D	5485
	Tawang	D	329
	Tenga	D	408
	Zakhama (Kohima)	D	958
Hisar	Bahadurgarh	D	10774
	Bathinda	C	20624
	Bhiwani	A	26950
	Bikaner	D	6034
	Charki Dadri	C	29799

	Churu	B	6588
	Didwana	D	13405
	Faridkot	C	7451
	Fatehabad	D	4338
	Hissar	D	30193
	Jhajjar	B	28416
	Jind	C	14064
	Loharu	D	7735
	Mansa	D	9420
	Meham	D	2928
	Nagaur	D	5291
	Narwana	A	3235
	Rajgarh	D	7067
	Rohtak	D	33147
	Sampla	D	2907
	Sirsa	D	4756
	Sri Ganganagar	C	2456
	Suratgarh (Hanumangarh)	B	1488
Hyderabad	Ananthapur	D	5303
	Sainikpuri Hyderabad	A	
	Chittoor	D	14527
	Kadapa	D	6274
	Eluru	C	5145
	Bidar	C	3498
	Giddalur	C	20535
	Golconda	C	11981
	Guntur	D	31766
	Karimnagar	D	3407
	Khammam	D	2251
	Kurnool	D	8524
	Mehbubnagar	D	3909
	Nellore	D	2936
	Sanikpuri	A	9
	Secunderabad	D	62890
	Vijayawada	D	8847
Jabalpur	Bhind	C	8967
	Bhopal	D	19512
	Bilaspur, Chattisgarh	D	5666
	Gwalior	B	34072

	Indore	D	7058
	Jabalpur	B	21499
	Jhansi	D	8272
	Mhow	D	15718
	Morena	D	7745
	Raipur	D	17813
	Rewa	D	19658
	Satna	D	9623
	Saugor	D	4988
	Ujjain	D	4687
Jaipur	Aligarh	B	12857
	Alwar	D	25161
	Bansur (Yavatmal)	C	2735
	Behror	D	18298
	Bharatpur	D	17621
	Bhuwana	D	11382
	Chirawa	D	21684
	Dausa	D	2310
	Dharuhera	D	3442
	Hathras	D	4396
	Hindaun City (Karauli)	D	13374
	Jaipur	D	58777
	Jaipur III	A	1
	Jhunjhunu	A	41697
	Kosli	D	9312
	Kota	D	11647
	Kotputli	A	7286
	Mahendragarh	D	20100
	Mathura	B	37331
	Narnaul	D	23314
	Neem Ka Thana	A	11824
	Rewari	A	43080
	Sikar	D	38590
	Vidhyadhar Nagar (Sanganer)	D	10783
Jallandhar	Ajnala	D	5432
	Amritsar	A	44668
	Batala	C	24645
	Beas	D	13068
	Ferozpur	C	10253
	Gagret	D	

	Garhshankar (Mahalpur)	A	6112
	Gurdaspur	A	41208
	Hoshiarpur	A	34087
	Jallandhar	C	31089
	Kapurthala	C	11070
	Moga	D	16402
	Muktsar	C	4980
	Nawansahar	D	9135
	Phagwara	D	2652
	Sri Hargobindpur	D	8335
	Sultanpur Lodhi	D	1217
	Suranassi	D	4331
	Talwara	B	16749
	Tarantaran/Patti	B	37005
	Uchi Bassi	D	40852
Jammu	Akhnoor	C	29751
	Baramulla	D	9795
	BD Bari (Baribrahmna)	C	21026
	Doda	D	5543
	Jammu	A	61271
	Janglot (Kathua)	C	19012
	Leh	D	18629
	Nagrota (Gujroo)	D	2462
	Poonch	A	5288
	Rajouri	D	30453
	Samba	D	27265
	Srinagar	B	7501
	Udhampur	C	16155

Kochi	Alleppey (Alapuzha)	B	20381
	Iritti	D	5670
	Kalpetta	D	4974
	Kanhagad	D	7935
	Kannur	C	35184
	Kochi	D	25343
	Kottayam	B	16352
	Kozhikode (Calicut)	B	38209
	Kunnamkulam	B	6418
	Muvattupuzha	D	11242
	Painav	C	2173

	Palakkad	D	22460
	Perintalmanna	B	15737
	Thrissur	B	21390
Kolkata	Bankura	D	8565
	Barrackpore	D	58188
	Baruipur	A	2558
	Behrampur	D	13883
	Bengdubi	D	28895
	Binaguri	D	2499
	Cooch Behar	D	3910
	Gangtok	D	3328
	Hooghly	D	
	Howrah	C	7076
	Kalimpong	B	4320
	Katihar	D	5396
	Krishnanagar	C	16789
	Lebong (Darjeeling)	D	17461
	Midnapur	D	15339
	Raiganj	D	5229
	Salt Lake	C	7891
Lucknow	Akbarpur Matti (Kanpur Dehat)	D	7048
	Barabanki	D	1682
	Etawah	C	12493
	Fatehgarh	C	21763
	Fatehpur	D	7432
	Gomti Area	D	
	Hardoi	A	4830
	Kanpur	A	57067
	Lakhimpur Kheri	D	1544
	Lucknow	D	90754
	Orai	D	4201
	Raebareli	D	9790
	Unnao	C	4675
Mumbai	Karwar	D	2983
	Mahad	D	2325
	Mumbai (COD Kandivali)	B	6798
	Mumbai (Navy)	D	26943
	Mumbai (Upnagar)	C	12739
	Thane (Nerul)	C	17084

	Amaravati	D	8298
	Amla	D	8751
	Nagpur	C	3055
	Wardha	D	27587
Nepal	Kohalpur	D	2492
	Bhutwal	A	15938
	Dharan	B	36889
	Kathamandu	A	55934
	Pokhara	A	22314
Patna	Ara	B	11925
	Bhagalpur	D	8308
	Buxar	D	11382
	Chhapra	C	64351
	Danapur (Patna)	D	4196
	Darbhanga	B	20951
	Gaya	D	4886
	Khagaria	D	2144
	Madhubani	D	8201
	Motihari	C	5988
	Munger	D	16144
	Muzaffarpur	D	4329
	Patna II	D	
	Samastipur	D	6850
	Sasaram	D	2869
	Sitamarhi	D	6529
	Siwan	D	9975
	Vaishali (Hajipur)	D	42268
Pune	Ahmednagar	B	22068
	Aurangabad	D	5444
	Beed	D	9329
	Buldhana	D	4644
	Chiplun	C	34244
	Devlali	D	8821
	Dhule	D	10047
	Jalgaon	B	11642
	Karad	D	40489
	khadki (Pune)	A	30736
	Kolhapur	D	14151
	Latur	B	5272
	Pune (Nyati)	C	

	Nanded	D	7855
	Osmanabad	C	3610
	Panaji	A	59073
	Pune	D	31002
	Sangli	D	38896
	Satara	C	3960
	Sindhudurg	C	14356
	Solapur	C	20145
	South Pune (Lohegaon)	D	1444

Ranchi	Chaibasa	D	2167
	Daltonganj	D	2277
	Deoghar	D	4594
	Dhanbad	D	2429
	Gumla	D	8427
	Jamshedpur	D	796
	Jashpur (Raigarh)	D	39522
	Ranchi	C	9065
Trivandrum	Changanacherry	D	9180
	Kilimanur	D	20053
	Kottarakara	C	34877
	Mavelikara	A	19906
	Nagarcoil	D	26862
	Pathanamthitta	B	28272
	Quilon (Kollam)	B	8254
	Ranni	D	12628
	Tirunelveli	D	39405
	Trivandrum	D	9451
	Trivandrum (Med College)	A	6326
	Tutiorin	C	535
Vizag	Jagdalpur	D	5831
	Kakinada	D	968
	Koraput	D	21725
	Srikakulam	A	58833
	Vijayanagram	D	
	Vishakhapatnam II	C	
	Vishakapatnam	D	4991
Yol	Bakloh	D	12214
	Barsar	B	454

	Bhoranj	D	
	Dehragopipur	C	17597
	Hamirpur	D	35965
	Jogindernagar	A	7490
	Kullu	A	3430
	Mandi	D	19565
	Palampur	C	37322
	Sarkaghat	D	10502
	Shahpur	D	11826
	Una	C	21510
	Yol	D	23302

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2025-26)

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

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 19th February, 2026 from 1100 hrs. to 1710 hrs. in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2.	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3.	Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4.	Shri Lumbaram Choudhary
5.	Captain Viriato Fernandes
6.	Shri Mohammad Haneefa
7.	Ms. S. Jothimani
8.	Shri Shashank Mani
9.	Shri Virendra Singh
10.	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
11.	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha
	Rajya Sabha
12.	Shri Naresh Bansal
13.	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
14.	Shri Muzibulla Khan
15.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
16.	Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam
17.	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

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

LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Defence

General Defence Budget and Capital Outlay

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
3.	Dr. Samir Venkatpati Kamat	Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO
4.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
5.	Smt. Sukriti Likhi	Secretary(ESW)
6.	Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh	VCOAS
7.	Air Mshl Nagesh Kapoor	VCAS
8.	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	VCNS
9.	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik	Adjutant General
10.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
11.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
12.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)
13.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
14.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar	JS(Navy & DS)

Procurement Policy and Defence Planning

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
3.	Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh	VCOAS
4.	Air Mshl Nagesh Kapoor	VCAS
5.	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	VCNS
6.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
7.	Shri A Anbarasu	AS & DG(Acquisition)

8.	Shri Dinesh Mahur	AS(DP)
9.	ADG A P BADOLA	ADGCG
10.	IG VK Vijay Kumar	DDG(P&P)
11.	Shri Longjam Sidhartha Singh	AS & FA(Acquisition)
12.	Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh	JS & AM(Air)
13.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
14.	Shri Dinesh Kumar	JS & AM (MS and LS)
15.	R Adm Paar Sadiq	ADG Acq Tech (M&S)
16.	AVM GK Mohan	ADG Acq Tech (Air)
17.	Maj Gen Tarun Agrawal	ADG Acq Tech (Army)
18.	Sh. Amit Satija	JS(DIP)
19.	Sh. Rajeev Prakash	JS(NS)
20.	Ms. Manisha Chandra	JS(Aerospace & DOMW)
21.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)
22.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
23.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar,	JS(Navy & DS)

Joint Staff

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	CISC
3.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AS, DMA
4.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
5.	Vice Admiral Vineet McCARTY	DCIDS(PP&FD)
6.	AVM Dharminder Singh Handa	ACIDS (FP&ADM)
7.	Maj Gen Amit Talwar	ACIDS (PP&FS)
8.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
9.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)

10.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
11.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar	JS(Navy & DS)

Army

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Shri Pushpendra Singh	VCOAS
3.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AS, DMA
4.	Lt Gen Manish Luthra	Offg DCOAS (Strat)
5.	Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar	DG FP
6.	Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla	MGS
7.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
8.	Maj Gen Neeraj Shukla	Offg DG SP
9.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)
10.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
11.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar	JS(Navy & DS)
12.	Maj Gen Vikram Sharma	Addl QMG
13.	Maj Gen TS Bains	ADG FP
14.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

Air Force

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Air Mshl Nagesh Kapoor	VCAS
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
4.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AS, DMA
5.	Air Mshl Awadhesh Kumar Bharti	DCAS
6.	AVM Tejpal Singh	ACAS (Plans)
7.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
8.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)

9.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar	JS(Navy & DS)
10.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

Navy

1.	Gen Anil Chauhan	CDS & Secretary, DMA
2.	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	VCNS
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
4.	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AS, DMA
5.	Rear Admiral BS Sodhi	ACNS(P&P)
6.	Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar	JS(Navy)
7.	AVM Vikram Gaur	JS(Air & SD), DMA
8.	Maj Gen G S Choudhry	JS(Army & TA)
9.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

Indian Coast Guard

1.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
2.	Smt. Dipti Mohil Chawla	Addl. Secretary, DoD
3.	DG S Paramesh	DG ICG
4.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
5.	Shri Satyajit Mohanty	Joint Secretary (Coast Guard)
6.	DIG V Krishna Kumar	PD(P&B)
7.	ADG A P BADOLA,	ADGCG
8.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
9.	IG VK Vijay Kumar	DDG(P&P)

DGDE

1.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary

2.	Smt. Shobha Gupta	DGDE
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
4.	Shri Rakesh Mittal	Additional Secretary
5.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
6.	Ms. Nigar Fatima	Sr. Addl. DG
7.	Smt. Vibha Sharma	Addl DG
8.	Shri Madhukar Naik	Addl. DG

BRO

1.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
2.	Lt Gen Harpal Singh	DGBR
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
4.	Shri Rakesh Mittal	Additional Secretary
5.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

DGAFMS

1.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
2.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)
3.	Surg VAdm Arti Sarin	DGAFMS
4.	Shri Manish Tripathi	Additional Secretary
5.	Shri Dalip Singh Bhadauria	DDG(Med)
6.	Maj Gen Manas Chatterjee	Addl DGAFMS(E&S)
7.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

NCC

1.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary
2.	Lt Gen Virendra Vats	DG NCC
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FA(DS)

4.	Smt. Dipti Mohil Chawla	Addl. Secretary, DoD
5.	Shri S. G. P. Verghese	Joint Secretary
6.	AVM PVS Narayana	ADG(A)
7.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them of the agenda for the Sitting *i.e.* oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Defence in connection with examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2026-27.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the Defence Secretary and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) along with, the representatives of the Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate on the subjects 'General Defence Budget, Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (Civil), Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procuremnet Policy and Defence Planning, Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), Border Roads Organization (BRO), Director General Armed Forces medical Services (DGAFMS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC)' in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27.

4. Subsequently, drawing attention to the Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as `confidential', he requested the representative of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

5. Thereafter, the Defence Secretary initiated the discussion by giving an overview of Defence Services Estimates and other Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2026-27. The highlights of the brief given by the Defence Secretary are as under:

(i) The total outlay of the Ministry of Defence for 2026-27 is Rs 7.85 lakh crore, which is 15.19 per cent higher than the current financial year BE and is about 2 per cent of the estimated GDP for FY 2026-27.

(ii) The budget estimate for Defence Services for the financial year 2026-27 is Rs 5.85 lakh crore, of which Rs 3.65 lakh crore is under the revenue head and Rs 2.19 lakh crore is under the capital head.

(iii) Out of total allocation, Rs. **5.85** crore has been allotted for Defence Services Estimates, Rs. **28,500** crore for MoD (Civil) and Rs. **1.71** lakh crore for Defence pensions;

(iv) Ministry of Defence had utilised 50 per cent of the capital allocation allocated to the Defence Services within the second quarter and till date, the MoD has utilised more than 80 per cent of the amount for this year.

(v) Seventy-five percent of Defence Modernization budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in FY 2025-26; and

(vi) Annual defense production in the financial year 2024-25 was ₹1.51 lakh crore, an increase of 18 percent compared to the previous financial year, i.e., 2023-24.

(vii) Similarly, defense exports during the financial year 2024-25 increased to ₹23,682 crore, representing a 12 percent increase compared to defense exports in the financial year 2023-24.

6. Then, a Power Point Presentation on **General Defence Budget** was made before the Committee. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(i) The total allocation of the MoD is Rs. 7.85 lakh crore. Out of which Rs. 5.85 lakh crore, which is almost 75 per cent, is allocated for Defence Services; Rs. 1.71 lakh crore is for Defence Pensions and the remaining 3.64 per cent is for Civil Organisations under the Ministry of Defence.

(ii) In Defence Services Estiamtes, out of the total allocation of Rs. 5.85 lakh crore, Rs. 3.65 lakh crore is for Revenue and the balance Rs. 2.19 lakh core is for Capital head.

(iii) The total Central Government allocation for the financial year 2026-27 is almost 15 per cent of the total Central Government Budget. At the Revenue allocation, it constitutes 13.42 per cent (Rs. 41.25 lakh crore) of the total Central Government Revenue and with respect to Capital allocation, the Ministry of Defence accounts for 18.91 per cent. (Rs. 12.22 lakh crore)

(iv) Two per cent of the GDP of FY 2026-27 is accounted for by the Ministry of Defence. This outlay is 15.19 per cent higher than the BE of financial year 2025-26 (i.e. Rs 6.81 lakh crore) and 7.12 per cent higher than the RE of financial year 2025-26 (i.e Rs. 7.32 lakh crore).

(v) distribution of the MoD Budget component-wise, the four major heads are: Salary and Allowances at 27.83 per cent (Rs. 2,18,404.79), Capital Head at 29.44 per cent (Rs. 2,31,009.72), Defence Pensions at 21.84 per cent (Rs. 1,71,338.22), and Non-Salary Expenditure at 20.89 per cent. (Rs. 1,63,925.55)

(vi) the trend of the last five years, the defence budget has steadily increased. The increase is about 64.09 per cent from Rs. 4.78 lakh crore in 2021-22 to Rs. 7.85 lakh crore in the financial year 2026-27. In absolute terms, the increase is Rs. 3.06 lakh crore, reflecting a compounded annual growth rate of 10.41 (CAGR) per cent over the past five years.

(vii) In Defence Services Estimates the total allocation is Rs. 3.65 lakh crore. Of this, 57 per cent is for Pay and Allowances, and the remaining is for Non-Salary Expenditure.

(viii) the total allocation for Revenue Expenditure for the Defence Forces is Rs. 3.65 lakh crore. This is 17.24 per cent higher than the BE of financial year 2025-26 and more than 4.49 per cent higher than the RE of financial year 2025-26.

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

7. The representatives of the Ministry of Defence then gave a Power Point Presentation on **Capital Outlay on Defence Services** which was followed by discussion on a wider gamut of issues encompassing the following:

(i) Total allocation of Ministry of Defene is 7,84,678.28 crore, out of which Rs. 5,84,785.45 crore has been allotted for Revenue and Capital Head to Defence Services Estimates. In Capital head Rs. 2,29,306.47 crore has been allotted and out of which Rs. 1,84,931.92 crore is allocated for capital acquisition.

(ii) Allocation under capital has been gone up from Rs. 1,80,000 crore in FY 2025-26 to Rs. 2,19,306.47 crore in FY 2026-27 which is an increase in 21.84 percent ;

(iii) Capital Budget is also termed as Modernization Budget of Armed Forces to be used for Acquisition of Military Equipments like Aircrafts, Aero-engines, Naval Fleet and Heavy and Medium Vehicles

(iv) In respect of three services there is an increase of 22.58 % and 18.29% with respect of BE and RE respectively for FY 2025-26

(v) There is an increase in capital outlay of more than Rs. 84,000 crore from Rs. 1,35,061.00 crore rupees in financial year 2021-22 to Rs. 2,19,306.47 crore for financial year 2026-27

(vi) In the components of the capital budget for financial year 2026-27 29 per cent of the expenditure is planned on aircraft and aero engine and 39.69 per cent on other equipment. Other equipment includes armaments, guns, tanks, electronics, surveillance equipment, radars, and aviation equipment.

(vii) For FY 2026-27 there is an overall increase of 24.35% with respect of BE and 18.10% over RE of FY 2025-26 in case of three services

(viii) Defence Capital Acquistion (modernization) Budget has been increased from Rs. 1,11,463.00 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs. 1,84,931.92 crore in FY 2026-27.

(ix) Mission Atmanirbharta and earmarking of funds for domestic industries

(x) MoD took an initiative for earmarking of fund for domestic industries since FY 2020-21 to strengthen the domestic industries

(xi) For FY 2026-27, 75% of Capital Acquistion Budget of Rs. 1,84,931.92 crore has been earmarked for acquisition through domestic industries i.e Rs. 1,38,698.94 crore

(xii) 25% of domestic share *i.e.* Rs. 34,674.74 crore has been further earmarked for acquisition of capital assets through Domestic private Industries for FY 2026-27.

(xiii) In the current FY i.e 2025-26, against target of Rs. 1.11 lakh crore, procurement amounting to Rs. 88,577.84 crore has been realized through domestic industries and against target of Rs. 27,886.21 crore from Domestic private Industries procurement of Rs. 16,475.41 crore has been realized till January, 2026.

(xiv) working on the sixth generation prototype aircraft

(xv) plans for procuring missile systems under the capital outlay

(xvi) planned to be spent for the procurement of advanced aircraft and advanced engines

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

8. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Defence then gave a Power Point Presentation on **Procurement Policy and Defence Planning** which was followed by discussion on the following:

(i) Aim to Viksit Bharat 2047 (Developed India)

(ii) intense regional confrontations and global engagements

(iii) robust military strength for secured nation

(iv) defence planning means strong Industrial Base, financial framwork, R&D capacity, Defence diplomacy, skilled human resourses

(v) challenges for outcome are evolving character of warfare, active borders, Technological Asymmetry, scale of production, capability voids legacy systems and Grey Zone terrorism

(vi) Integrated capability development system (ICADS)

(vii) 10 year Integrated Capability Develoment Plan (ICDP)

(viii) Capital acquisition carried out on the basis of Defence Acquistion Process (DAP) 2000

(ix) Defence procurment Manual (DPM) 2025 needs for sustenance

(x) Defence acquisition procedure bridges operational needs, fiscal framework and industry capability

(xi) 75% (Rs. 1,38,698.94 crore) of Capital Acquisition Budget has been earmarked for domestic industries;

(xii) 25% Defence R&D Budget for Industry, Start-ups and Academia

(xiii) increase of DRDO Budget from 26,816.82 crore to 29,100.25 crore in FY 2026-27

(xiv) Defence Industry Corridor at Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

(xv) supports for MSMEs through ADITI, iDEX and TDS

(xvi) 11 Nodes provides plug and play support to industries

(xvii) highest priority is being Buy Indian (IDDM) category

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

9. The Chief of Defence Staff gave an overview of the working of Joint Staff following which a Power Point presentation on the Joint Staff was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(i) Promoting jointness and integration among the three services;

(ii) Formulation of policy on Joint Operational Capabilities, Training and Functional aspects;

(iii) Financial planning and oversight of joint staff;

(iv) Net Assessment of potential Adversaries

(v) Planning and Coordination of efforts of Three Services-Operations, Exercises, Strat intelligence and Crisis Management

(vi) “VISION-2047” which include Phase-I (2023) -Era of Transition, Phase II (2030-40)-Era of Consolidation and Phase III (2040-47)-Era of Excellence

(vii) Changing character of warfare from Net Centric to Intelligent Warfare (Data Centric)

(viii) perception management during Operation Sindoor

(ix) Docrines, Policies and Orders of Joint Staff

(x) Indigenisation efforts of Joint Staff

(xi) plans for future roadmap of Joint Staff

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The officials of Joint Staff then withdrew)

10. Following the discussion on Army, a Power Point presentation on the Army was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

(i) Ensuring territorial integrity by Army;

(ii) Security situation in border areas of the country;

(iii) Reviewing deployment of troops and surveillance in border areas by army;

(iv) Patrolling along the Line of Conrol and the hinterland by army;

(v) Logistic operations in border areas and High Altitute Areas;

(vi) Operation Sindoor with precision and professionalism;

(vii) Focus on capability developmet in the form of intelligence dominance to cutting edge technology and joint operational readiness;

(viii) Operation Mahadev to neutralized terrotists involved in the Pahalgam attack;

(ix) Indian Army on the path of jointness and integration;

(x) enhancing integration through pursuits in common operational planning process, technology development, harmonising intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance resources

(xi) formulation of joint military civil fusion doctrine

(xii) enhancing defence through integration of Akashteer, Command and control system;

(xiii) carried out various transformation and reorganisation in the year 2025 by Indian Army

(xiv) formation of combined arms through Rudra Brigades

(xv) raising of Bhairav Battalions, Ashni protons and shaktimaan regiments

(xvi) Self-sufficiency in defence procurement and manufacturing

(xvii) acquiring the capability for developing in-house drone systems

(xviii) Strengthing of Border Area Development programme in border areas by army;

(xix) committment to the vision of a developed India @ 2047 by army

(xx) carrying out Military Civic Action Projects under Operation Sadbhavana in the border areas

(xxi) allocation of Rs. 2,85,735 crore which is 18 per cent increase from the previous financial year Budget Estimates to Indian Army.

(xxii) Budgetary allocation in capital and revenue head to Army;

(xxiii) Status of army equipment which remains wintage

(xxiv) Effect of operational readiness expenditure on Army's maintenance, spares and logistic support

(xxv) Plan or mechanism to accommodate 25 per cent Agneeveer and the rest others

(xxvi) Budget to meet 30 per cent of new generation equipments

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The officials of Army then withdrew)

11. Thereafter, a Power Point presentation on the Air Force was made. This was followed by detailed deliberations on following issues:

(i) Transformation of Air Force into a multi-domain capable aerospace park to protect our national interest

(ii) Coordination of Air Force with Army and Navy

(iii) procurement and upgrading of new aircarfts to maintain combat capability

(iv) fully participation by Air Force in design and development of the LCA Mark2 and Anka's

(v) fully operational of combat-capable helicopters like Apache, Prachand, and ALH Mark4 in the IAF.

(vi) Responsibility of Air Force for air defence of the Indian airspace

(vii) Role of critical combat Enablers like Airborne Early Warning Aircraft, flight refuellers and special Electronic Intelligence and surveillance platforms in Air Force

(viii) Budgetary allocation to Air Force;

(ix) capital budget earmarked for modernization for utilization in acquiring combat platforms and critical combat enablers

(x) proposal to acquire air-to-air, air-to-ground and surface-to-air guided ammunition as well as loitering munitions

(xi) Stress on self-reliance by Indian Air Force

(xii) Commitment for Atmanirbharta by Air Force

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The officials of Air Force then withdrew)

12. Thereafter, a power point presentation on the Navy was also made before the Committee following which deliberations on the following issues were held:

(i) Role of Navy in close coordination with Indian Coast Guard and other stakholders

(ii) Deployment of naval forces in overlapping missions

(iii) Major activities undertaken by Navy

(iv) Conduct of Theatre Level Exercise- TROPEX 25

(v) Monitoring movement of Chinese Warships, Chinese Research Vessels and Pakistani Warships

(vi) Anti-piracy operations by Navy;

(vii) Role of Navy in Joint Operations and Exercises

(viii) Establishment of Indian Navy Incubation Centre of Artificial Intelligence

(ix) Use of AI Compute Centre, CRYSTAL for the development, training and testing of advanced AI models.

(x) Indigenisation of Main Propulsion system to fill critical capability gap in self reliance

(xi) Induction of stitched ship as Indian Naval Sailing Vessel `Kaundinya' by Navy

(xii) Steps taken for empowerment of Women in Navy

(xiii) Increase indegenious contents in shipbuilding

(xiv) Navy's capability development under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives

(xv) Budget allocation of Rs. 1,07,549.57 crore for FY 2026-27

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The officials of Navy then withdrew)

13. Thereafter, a Power Point Presentation on the working of Indian Coast Guard was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

(i) Deployment of donier aircrafts, interceptor boats, hovecraft and helicopters for close coast surveillance;

(ii) Workforce of the Indian Coast Guard

(iii) More allocation in BE 2026-27 as compared to RE 2025-26;

(iv) Emerged as the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world

(v) Commemorate the year as Swarnim Jayanti year

(vi) Protection of lives in the ocean

(vii) Reasons for less expenditure of allocated budget of previous year

(viii) Import of equipment for Coast Guard

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The officials of Indian Coast Guard then withdrew)

14. Subsequently, a Power Point Presentation on the working of Defence Estates Organisation was made. This was followed by discussion on following points:

(i) Allocation in BE in FY 2026-27;

(ii) Duties of cantonment Board *i.e.* sanitation, drains and sewerage, water supply, primary education, health, roads, street lights and survey, etc.;

(iii) Duties of cantonment Board *i.e.* sanitation, drains and sewerage, water supply, primary and secondary education, hospitals and dispensaries, roads, street lights and regulation of building construction, etc.;

(iv) Environment and waste management works;

(v) Provision of eChhawani-Digital portal for online municipal services;

(vi) Grants-in-aid to the Contonment Board

(vii) status of hospitals, dispensaries, AYUSH Centres, etc.

(viii) Advanced health care infrastructure of Cantonment General hospitals

(ix) Integration of PM GatiShakti Portal with Defence Estates Mapping

(x) Successfully implementation of Bhoomi Raksha Portal

(xi) Integration of Lease Renewal/extension Module of eChhawani with Real Time Record Management

(xii) Telemedicine Services across all Cantonment General Hospitals and dispensaries

(xiii) Policy issue about monetization of land

(xiv) Policy relating to leases of land

(xv) Litigations related to disputed land

(xvi) Issues relating to transfer of land remined unutilized by Armed Forces

(xvii) Proposal from the State Government for provision of Defence Land;

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The representatives of Directorate General Defence Estates then withdrew)

15. Thereafter, a Power Point presentation on Border Roads Organization was made. The deliberations were held on the subject on following points:

(i) Budgetary allocations and Role of BRO in building roads in the challenging terrains and operational area

(ii) Details on ongoing projects of BRO

(iii) Construction of road projects in Indo-Myanmar border, Chhatisgarh Naxalite are Bhutan

(iv) Rendering support by BRO in northern theatres and western theatres

(v) Absorbation the concept of EPC contract

(vi) Construction of primarily roads, bridges, tunnels, airfields and marine structure by BRO

(vii) Challenges like geography challenges, snow, rainfall, land slides, etc. faced by BRO

(viii) Construction of highest road on the Umling La Pass

(ix) Allotment of grants to BRO for the FY i.e. Rs. 5994.13 crore which is 4 percent jump than previous allotment

(x) Plan to built roads in Indo-China border

(xi) Need for environment concerns to meet the complexities

(xii) Issues relating to construction of pending roads in Ladakh, khardung La tunnel, Kargil Batalik road, Pahalgam Kishtwar road, etc. ;

(xii) Deployment of local labourers to raise employment

(xiii) Construction cost in making per kilometer road by BRO

(xiv) Efforts for transferring of technologies and best practices with State Governments and other Central agencies

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The representatives of Border Roads Organization then withdrew)

16. After a brief introdcution, a Power Point presentation on DGAFMS was made. The deliberations were held on the subject on following points:

(i) Budgetary allocation and details regarding organizational structure of DGAFMS

(ii) Mission of DGAFMS in delivery comprehensive medical care of the highest standard during operations as well as peacetime

(iii) Mandate of the DGAFMS

(iv) spread of the AFMS to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coastguards, DRDO, Assam Rifles, NCC and Border Roads

(iv) Healthcare establishments i.e. hospitals, sick bays and station medicare centres of DGAFMS

(v) Echelon based medical care in AFMS

(vi) Tele-consultation from ships and submarines as well as ambulances

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

(The representatives of DGAFMS then withdrew)

17. The representative of the NCC Department gave an overview of the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

(i) Budgetary allocation and overview of NCC

(ii) Institutional training with primary focus on creating discipline and responsible citizen by NCC

(iii) Annual training camps

(iv) Organizing various camps i.e. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, All India Thal Sainik Camp, India Vayu Sainik Camp, Advance Leadership Camp, Republic Day Camp

(v) attachment of cadets to Army, Navy, Air Force units

(vi) Training syllabus covering subjects i.e. National integration, social awareness, hygiene, disaster management

(vii) weapon training and drill

(viii) new initiatives i.e. drone training and cyber training

(ix) skilled monthly start-up camps to inculcate a spirit of entrepreneurship and orientation and to promote new ideas

(x) Adventure camps

(xi) trekking camps, mountaineering, and microlight flying

Thereafter, the Membes raised clarifications on the issues related to budgetary allocations to which the representatives of the Ministry responded.

18. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information (which was not readily available) to the Secretariat expeditiously.

19. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2025-26)

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

The Committee sat on Friday, the 20th February, 2026 from 1100 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2.	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3.	Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4.	Captain Viriato Fernandes
5.	Shri Mohammad Haneefa
6.	Ms. S. Jothimani
7.	Shri Shashank Mani
8.	Shri Jagadish Shettar
9.	Shri Virendra Singh
10.	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
11.	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha
	Rajya Sabha
12.	Shri Naresh Bansal
13.	Shri Muzibulla Khan
14.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
15.	Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam
16.	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

SECRETARIAT

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

Ministry of Defence

LIST OF WITNESSES

Sl. No.	Name &	Designation
1.	**DPSUs**	
01	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
02	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FADS
03	Shri Dinesh Mahor	AS(DP)
04	Ms. Manisha Chandra	JS(Aero)
05	Dr D K Sunil	CMD HAL
06.	Shri Manoj Jain	CMD BEL
07	Cmde A Madhavrao	CMD BDL
08.	Shri Shantanu Roy	CMD BEML Ltd.
09.	Dr S.V.S. Narayana Murty	MIDHANI
10.	Capt Jagmohan	CMD, MDL
11.	Cmde P R Hari	CMD, GRSE
12.	Shri Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay	CMD GSL
13.	Cmde Hemant Khatri	CMD, HSL
14.	Shri Anil Kumar	DDG
15.	Shri Rajeev Prakash	JS(NS)
16.	Shri Amit Satija	JS(DIP)
17.	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
18.	Shri Siddhartha Singh Longjam	AS & FA(Acq)
19.	Shri Eddie Lalrinliana Khawlhring	Addl. FA & JS

20.	Shri Sanjay Kumar	Addl. FA & JS
21.	Shri Amitabh Ranjan Sinha	Addl. FA & JS
22.	Ms. Meera Mohanty	JS(P&C)

2. New DPSUs

1	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FADS
3	Shri Dinesh Mahor	AS(DP)
4	Dr. Garima Bhagat	Joint Secretary (Land Systems)
8	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
6	Shri Shrish Kumar	Addl. DGO (C&S)
7	Ms. Sunita Mansukhani	DDG(Budget)
8	Shri Rakesh Kumar Tiwari	Sr. DDG (NDCD)
9	Shri Sanjay Hazari	CMD MIL
10	Shri Sanjay Dwivedi	CMD AVANI
11	Shri Umesh Singh	CMD AWEIL
12	Dr. Sunil Date	CMD TCL
13	Shri M. C. Balasubramaniam	CMD GIL
14	Shri Vijay Kumar Iyer	CMD YIL
15	Shri Tushar Tripathi	CMD IOL
16	Shri Manoj Kumar Singh	DDG(NDCE-I)
17	Shri Neeraj Agrawal	DDG & OSD(DOMW)

3. DGQA & DGAQA

1.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (DP)
2	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FADS
3	Shri Dinesh Mahor	AS(DP)
4	Dr. Garima Bhagat	Joint Secretary (Land Systems)
5	Ms. Manisha Chandra	JS(Aero)
6	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
7	Shri N Manoharan	DG, DGQA
8	Smt. Neena Mishra	PD(Budget)
9	Brig S J Varughese	Offg ADG QA(PP&T)
10.	Shri Nagaraja RB	Director General, DGAQA
11.	Shri C Ramesh	Addl. Director General, DGAQA

4. DRDO

1	Dr. Samir Venkatpati Kamat	Secretary (DDR&D) & Chairman DRDO
2	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FADS
3	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
4	Shri Lal Chand Mangal	DS & DG(TM)
5	Dr (Ms) Chandrika Kaushik	DS & DG (PC &SI)
6	Dr. Mayank Dwivedi	OS & DG(HR)
7	K,Dr. Ravindra Singh	OS & DG(R&M)
8	Sh. Vipin Kumar Kaushik	OS & Director, DRPPI
9	Dr. Sumit Goswami	Sc ‘G’ & Director, P&C
10	Dr. Maiya Din	Sc ‘G’ & Director, DFMM

5. Ex-Servicemen Welfare

1	Ms. Sukriti Likhi	Secretary (ESW)
2	Shri Raj Kumar Arora	FADS
3	Air Marshal Manoj Kumar Mehra	ACAS(Accounts & AV)
4	Lt Gen VPS Kaushik	Adjutant General
5	Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar	DGFP
6	Shri Vishvajit Sahay	CGDA
7	Shri Kanwaldeep Singh	PCDA(Pension)
8	Shri Ajay Kumar	Jt. Secretary, ESW
9	Smt. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy	Addl. FA & JS
10	Maj Gen TS Bains	ADGFP
11	Rear Admiral Aditya Hara	ACOP (AC)
12	Maj Gen SBK Singh	DG(R)
13	Maj Gen Anil Chandel	MD, ECHS
14	Smt. Molly Sengupta	Jt. CGDA(Pension)
15	Brig DS Basera	Secretary, KSB

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate upon Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services)-New DPSUs, Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27.

3 Later, drawing attention to Direction 55(1) of the Direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representatives of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

4. After formal introduction, the Secretary, Defence Production initiated the discussion by highlighting the works of the department which includes production and promotion of defence equipments in country, attracting more companies including DPSUs and private sector companies towards defence sector to create an adequate supply chain, encouraging export of defence products and briefly highlighted various steps taken towards indigenization and self reliance. Thereafter, the secretary sought permission from the Committee to present a

detailed presentation through PPT by the Joint Secretary of the Department. The highlights of the presentation given by the Joint Secretary are as under:

(i) mandate of the department is to achieve self reliance in design, development and production of defence equipment, to promote indigenization, to promote export, to improve R&D, promote innovations, to increase public & private sector participation including MSMEs & Startups and to improve investments including FDI.

(ii) Self Reliance/ Indigenisation Initatives through Make Pocedures(Make-I/II/III) to promote indigenous design, development and manufacturing, SRIJAN portal to bring private industry into indigensiation drive, notification of 5 Positive Indigenisation List, Launch of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to foster innovation and technology development by engaging MSMEs and Startups etc.

(iii) Initiatives taken for Export promotion- Streamlining of SOP for ease of business, setting up of Defence Export Promotion Wing, export to almost 100 nations, promotion of Brand India scheme through Defence Attaches and Export value of Rs. 27085 achieved till 31.01.2026.

(iv) Defence manufacturing licensing have been streamlined resulting in drastiv reduction in processing time from 8 weeks to 4 weeks. 824 industrial licences issued so far.

(v) Other major reforms – Defence testing portal, launch of Digital Database of Inidan Defence Companies, R&D roadmap for DPSUs for next 5yrs., setting up strategic mental bank of critical materials.

(vi)Major achievements- Defence production of more than 1 lakh crore and export of Rs 27,000 crore crossed till 31.12.2025, 15,500 plus items indeginised.

5. Thereafter, a Power Point Presentation was made by the CMDs of all nine Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) *viz.* Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited, BEML Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Goa Shipyard Limited, and Hindustan Shipyard Limited. Focus of their presentation was on overview, financial performances, major achievements, major projects/orders ongoing/completed, R&D and Exports. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(i) Time bound delivery of critical projects.

(ii) Order Book position.

(iii) Use of AI in defect detection in manufacturing line.

(iv) increasing share of export by DPSUs in India’s export.

(v) allocation for R&D.

(vi) CSR Spending by DPSUs.

(vii) Impact of accidents on orders.

(viii) reserve of rare materials which are useful for defence equipment and production.

(ix) increasing production of naval fleets and submarines.

(x) Profitability of DPSUs.

(xi) Focus on Indigenisation and self reliance.

(xii) Structured coordination between DPSUs and Private sector on defence as well as civilian production to make India a global manufacturing hub.

(xiii) periodic technical assessment and adaptive allocation.

(*The representatives of the DPSUs then withdrew and representative of Directorate of Ordnance(Coordination and Services) came in*.)

6. After introduction of the representative of Directorate of Ordnance (Cord. & Serv.), a brief overview regarding seven new DPSUs was presented by the Joint Secretary. Then CMDs of all new DPSUs made a Power Point Presentation before the Committee highlighting their financial position including revenue and order books. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues:

(i) CAPEX support to new DPSUs.

(ii) Overlapping of products produced by new DPSUs.

(iii) Export by new DPSUs.

(iv) Source of raw materials.

(v) manufacturing of anti land mine vehichles.

(vi) Indigenisation.

(vii) Expenditure on R&D.

(viii) Issue of Merger and difficulties faced by employees.

(*The witnesses then withdrew and representatives Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) & Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA came in.)*

7. The Director Generals of DGQA and DGAQA gave an overview of their respective organizations with the help of a Power Point Presentation highlighting

the role and functions of both the organizations along with budgetary allocation made and the funds utilized which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

(i) Extent of role of DGAQA.

(ii) Underlying issues behind the crash of legacy aircrafts and trainers aircrafts.

(iii) Operational clearance for indigenous platforms like Tejas and LCH.

(iv) Nature of quality assurance in foreign collaboration projects.

(The witnesses then withdrew and representatives of Ministry and Defence Research and Development Organisaiton (DRDO) came in after the lunch break)

8. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Ministry of Defence to the Sitting of the Committee convened to deliberate upon Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen, Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27.

9. Later, drawing attention to Direction 55(1) of the Direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to treat the deliberations of the sittings as 'confidential', he requested the representatives of the Ministry to give an overview of the subject after introducing themselves.

10. The representatives of the Department of Defence R&D gave an overview of the the organization with the help of a Power Point Presentation highlighting their financial overview comprising of budgetary allocation and expenditures, which was followed by deliberations on the following issues/topics:

(i) Role of DRDO in changing scenario.

(ii) Retention of scientists in light of salary of their counterparts in private sector.

(iii) Commercialization of cutting-edge innovation and research for obtaining financial self sufficiency.

(iv) Development of ICBM.

(v) Increasing budgetary support up to 10% of defence budget and optimum utilization of sanctioned allocations.

(vi) Partnership with academia, startups and industries.

(v) Support to agriculture and allied sectors through research.

(vi) Timely completion of R&D projects.

vii) Conceptualisations of emerging/invisibile/ unforeseen technologies.

11. After concluding discussion on Department of Defence R&D, representatives of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Defence Pension, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) gave an overview of the organization with the help of Power Point presentation highlighting administrative and financial matters relating to Armed Forces Veterans (Ex- Servicement) including pensioners, Armed Forced Veterans (Ex-Servicemen) Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Matters relating to Directorate General of Resttlements. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the following issues/topics:

(i) Clearance of Pending bills of empanelled hospitals.
(ii) Shortfall of medical specialists in polyclinics.
(iii) Cleanrance of OROP dues.
(iv) Reconsideration of issues relating to bringing Disability Pension in under Income Tax.
(v) Relaxation of age limit for Ex- Servicemen for UPSC exams.
(vi) Reservation for Children of Ex-Servicemen in education.
(vii) Employment of Ex Servicemen.
(viii) Setting up of ECHS facilities in Kargil districts.
(ix) Upgradation of Polyclinics.
(x) Reform in referral system for ECHS beneficiaries.
(xi) Mobile Polyclinics.
(xii) Increasing allocation for serious disease/ cancer/ dialysis grants.
(xiii) Ensuring benefits of rightful claims of veterans.

12. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for extensive discussion on the Demands for Grants and for responding to the queries of the Members. The Chairperson also requested the representatives to furnish information to the Secretariat expeditiously.

13. A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

CONFIDENTIAL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2025-26)

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

The Committee sat on Monday, the 16th March, 2026 from 1600 hrs. to 1616 hrs. in the Committee Room No. `62’, Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Radha Mohan Singh - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4	Shri Lumbaram Choudhary
5	Captain Viriato Fernandes
6	Shri Rahul Gandhi
7	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
8	Shri Shashank Mani
9	Smt. Mahua Moitra
10	Shri Jagadish Shettar
11	Shri Virendra Singh
12	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

Rajya Sabha

13	Shri Naresh Bansal
14	Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
15	Shri Muzibulla Khan
16	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. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports:-

(i) Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27 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) Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27 on 'Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Staff, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';

(iii) Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27 on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Defence Planning, Procurement Policy and Defence Pensions (Demand Nos. 21 and 22)';

(iv) Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2026-27 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)'; and

(v) Draft Report on the subject 'Review of Sainik Schools, Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and Rashtriya Military Schools'.

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above reports without any modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament on a date convenient to him.

5. ****Does not pertain to the report****

The Committee then adjourned.

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