

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.479
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5th February, 2020

AUCTION OF DECOMMISSIONED INS VIRAAAT

479. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken a decision last year for auction of the historic aircraft carrier INS Viraat and it remained unsold after the recently conducted auction by the State-owned e-commerce company, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC) and decided to hold another auction to sell it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not finding a bidder in the auction;
- (d) the time by which another auction is likely to be held; and
- (e) the bid amount fixed/expected by the Government to sell the aircraft carrier?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(श्री श्रीपाद नाईक)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) & (c): The e-auction was carried out on 17 December, 2019 wherein a total of three bidders participated. However, the auction was rejected in MSTC bidding process as the H1 bid was less than 50% of Reserve Price of the ship.
- (d) The next auction is likely to be scheduled in March, 2020.
- (e) The expected amount has been fixed in accordance with existing GoI regulations on disposal of ships as 'Scrap'. Revealing of Reserve Price at this juncture may jeopardise the auction process, leading to loss to Government exchequer.
