

PRESS RELEASE

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'Lie', 'Belie' & 'Fly', in face of stark truth, is the chameleon like character of Modi Govt.

एक झूठ छिपाने के लिए रक्षामंत्री सौ झूठ बोल रही हैं !

1. Defence Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is caught lying again on the number of fighter aircrafts required by Indian Air Force. IAF had given its requirement of 126 aircrafts, based on which UPA-Congress had floated the tender. PM Modi's decision to arbitrarily reduce requirement of 126 fighter aircraft to 36 is unexplainable.

Claim of Defence Minister that IAF does not have the infrastructure i.e parking place, maintenance facility to fly 126 Fighter aircrafts is preposterous and goes against the grain of National Security requirements. Does the Defence Minister even know that there is a sanctioned strength of 42 air squadrons for IAF. IAF has maintained upto 37/38 squadrons of fighter aircrafts in the past. The current number of air squadrons is 33, which are likely to fall to 31 by 2021. Considering that Rafale aircrafts will not be delivered till the year 2022, there will be available existing space for 7 more squadrons' i.e $18 \times 7 = 126$ aircrafts.

Defence Minister's argument is obnoxious on two more counts :- (i) Can Govt of India & IAF not create parking space/maintenance facility in 6-8 years period during which the aircrafts will be delivered? (ii) Can creation of parking space/maintenance facility be a ground for compromising Air Superiority and National Security?