

Govt to procure 10 C-17 aircraft

New Delhi, March 10

The Government today said it was planning to procure 10 C-17 transport aircraft for strategic airlift requirements. The Letter of Request (LoR) for the same was issued to the US Government on January 1. "The proposal to procure C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from



Mr A.K. Antony

the US Government for the Indian Air Force was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council on October 19, 2009, and the LoR was issued to the US Government on January 1, 2010," the Defence Minister, Mr A. K.

Antony, said in written reply to the Rajya Sabha. In a bid to augment its fleet of transport aircraft and enhance its strategic airlift capabilities, the IAF is planning to procure the C-17s, which

can carry a payload of around 80 tonnes. The IAF currently operates a fleet of Russian-origin Ilyushin-76 and Antonov-32 transport aircraft. In reply to another query, the Minister said a contract worth over \$964 million has been signed with Russian MiG Corporation to upgrade IAF's MiG 29 fighter jets. Mr Antony said a contract for upgrading An-32 aircraft was also signed with Ukrainian company, Spets Techno Export, on June 15, 2009. — PTI