



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Information Technology
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District

22 November, 2011

Dear Shri Antony,

I draw your attention to an article in the India Today edition of 07 November, 2011 titled "Not ready for War" (enclosed herewith). The article details the unpreparedness of the Indian Army vis-à-vis China, essentially on account of slow pace of its modernization, shortage of warfare equipment procurement, delay in replenishment/recruitment of officers and lack of infrastructure.

These reports about unpreparedness of Indian Army and the consequences of this inadequacy are indeed alarming. It is shocking to know that there is a delay of more than a decade on commissioning two critical projects to equip infantry with modern assault rifles, night vision devices and devices for high speed encrypted communication and another Field Artillery Modernization Plan.

The Indian Army is crippled with the shortage of 12,000 young officers who actually lead its sections and companies in the battle. Its 400-odd infantry battalions are currently functioning with less than half the sanctioned strength of 40 officers.

This issue assumes greater significance in view of the fact that our neighbour China has been aggressively building up along the Leh border and Arunachal Pradesh with connecting roads and rail network, increasing its troops on the border and strengthening capabilities to amass a million troops in a short duration – while we are still grappling with bureaucratic issues.

These inadequacies of the Indian Army are extremely worrying and put the nation at a formidable risk. I urge you to take note of this worrying issue and take action to strengthen the capabilities of the Indian Army at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri A. K. Antony
Hon'ble Minister of Defence
Government of India
New Delhi