

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2779
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th March, 2023

DELAY IN INDIGENOUS DEFENCE MANUFACTURING

2779. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any delay in indigenous defence manufacturing including production of Tejas fighter jets, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has a concrete strategy to address these delays;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to facilitate export agreements with Egypt, Argentina and other countries as HAL's Tejas production falls short of domestic goals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the proposal of the Government to triple defence exports during the next three years?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (c): Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, multi-role supersonic fighter. It has quadruplex digital fly-by-wire Flight Control System (FCS) with associated advanced flight control laws. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is the Program Management Agency for design and development of LCA-Tejas. Obtaining Initial Operation Certificate (IOC) and Final Operation Certificate (FOC) are the responsibility of ADA. HAL is the design partner and production agency for Tejas and manufacturing facilities have been established by HAL.

HAL has taken up the production of the aircraft after receipt of IOC in Dec 2013 from ADA. The first series production aircraft took to the skies on 30th September 2014, well within a year after obtaining IOC. The production of 16 Tejas IOC fighter aircraft completed in Mar 2019. The production of Tejas FOC fighter aircraft was taken up after the receipt of FOC from ADA in February, 2019 and the production of 16 Tejas FOC fighter aircraft completed in September, 2022. HAL is also establishing third production line at HAL, Nasik division to further enhance the production capacity upto 24 Aircraft per annum.

HAL has set up dedicated production division with sufficient production capacity supported by a well-established tiered supplier base for manufacturing of LCA Tejas and is capable of meeting requirements of our Services and exports.

(d) & (e): Government of India aims at achieving defence exports worth Rs. 35,000 Crore by 2024-25. As regards information about export agreements with various countries, it cannot be shared being sensitive in nature.
