

Light Combat Aircraft

7800. SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Light Combat Aircraft Originally Scheduled to take off in 1990 is likely to be test flown in 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the production of the aircraft;

(c) whether over five to seven years would be required for induction of the aircraft in the Indian Air Force after initial operational clearance;

(d) the original budgetary provision for the Light Combat Aircraft project;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far on the project;

(f) the total estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(g) the amount of foreign exchange expenditure involved on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for delay are:

(i) not having undertaken a frontline indigenous aircraft development programme for more than 25 years, country lacked in infrastructure, technology and facilities. Development of a large number of technologies and facilities had to be taken up de-novo. Now the design capability has been built up.

(ii) non-availability of RB 199 engine, which was originally planned to be used in initial

prototegy. Time taken in locating alternate engine and in getting clearance fro GE 404 engine. We have also taken up our own aircraft engine (Kaveri) development.

(iii) non-availability of critical foreign exchange. Conscious decision to change development strategy to enhance indigenous content; and accepting longer time-frame involved in indigenous routes.

(c) No, Sir. All the production problems will be overcome between the first flight of LCA in 1996 to Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) in the year 2002.

(d) Rs. 560 crores (1982-83 price level).

(e) Rs. 547 crores upto 31 March, 1993.

(f) Rs. 2188 crores for phase I of Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) of LCA.

(g) Rs. 873 crores.

Integrated Coir Development Programme

7802. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Integrated Coir Development Programme (ICDP);

(b): if so, the States where ICDP is likely to be implemented;

(c) the amount earmarked for implementing the programme during the Eighth Plan; and

(d) the allocation likely to be made to different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). Keeping in view