

Production cost of an aircraft manufactured at HAL, Bangalore

4310. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of an aircraft manufactured at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore;

(b) the comparative cost of an imported aircraft;

(c) whether the former is costlier than the latter; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). HAL mainly manufactures aircraft for meeting defence needs. It will not be in the public interest to disclose details of cost in these cases. In the case of aircraft manufactured under licence, the cost of production of HAL aircraft at the raw material stage is generally comparable with the price of similar aircraft if imported. However in the case of HS 748, where the number of aircraft to be manufactured is limited, the HAL cost is somewhat higher.

(d) The higher cost is due to the comparatively limited number to be produced and consequent higher amortisation. There is also the absence of a well developed industrial infrastructure of supporting industries for the supply of aircraft materials, equipment and accessories, most of which have to be imported.

Among the steps taken to reduce the cost of production are to increase the productivity in HAL by greater attention to production planning and scheduling, incentive schemes training etc. Several measures have also been initiated for development of indigenous substitutes for imported materials

and components to the extent possible and also for the manufacture of various kinds of aircraft accessories within the country.

Service Officers on deputation to Public Sector Undertakings

4311. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Service Officers and personnel who are on deputation on high ranks to Public Sector undertakings; and

(b) the names of the undertakings to which they have been deputed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Nine (against posts whose civil scale of pay starts from Rs. 2000 and above).

(b) Names of the undertakings are as under:—

- (1) Modern Bakeries Ltd.
- (2) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- (3) Praga Tools Ltd.
- (4) Indian Airlines.
- (5) Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- (6) Garden Reach Workshop Ltd.
- (7) Hindusthan Copper Ltd.
- (8) Heavy Engineering Corporation.

Social security benefits to agricultural labours

4312. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the social security benefits to agricultural labour; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof