

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
ACQUIRING OF AUTO PILOT SYSTEM
RAGHUNATH JHA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, `Auto Pilot System: IAF upgradation projection hangs fire` appearing in the Indian Express dated February 5, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether CAG in its last report blamed the Air Headquarters for the failure to speed up acquisition of auto pilot system for Jaguar aircraft;
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in acquiring the Auto-Pilot system;
- (d) whether price negotiations committee has submitted its report in regard to Jaguar upgradation programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Report No. 8 of 2001 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out delay in procurement of Auto Pilot system.
- (c) A contract was signed for procurement of a suitable Auto Pilot system in 1999. This could not be implemented in practical terms due to non-availability of adequate space for the Auto Pilot Electronic Unit (APEU) in the aircraft. Suitable reconfiguration and certification by the Original Equipment Manufacturer is required for the installation of the APEU. The price negotiation for the procurement of the Auto Pilot has been concluded and a supplement to the previous Contract will be signed shortly.
- (d) & (e): In regard to the Jaguar Upgradation Programme, the price negotiation has been completed and Government has approved the upgradation programme by Hindustan Aeronautic Limited at the negotiated cost. Action is being taken to negotiate and conclude the Contract with HAL.