

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2435
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
JOINT VENTURE WITH EUROCOPTER FOR MANUFACTURING OF HELICOPTER
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether European helicopter maker Eurocopter has approached the Ministry of Defence for setting up a joint venture company with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to produce its Cougar and Fenner family of military choppers in India;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to replace ageing Cheetach and Chetak helicopters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) & (b): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Eurocopter has been entered into on 17th June 2003 during the Paris Air Show. The objective of this MOU is to develop co-operative relations in the fields of helicopter, related parts, manufacturing of sub assemblies and assemblies, development of systems and equipment.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (e) The proposal to replace the existing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters of Army Aviation is under consideration of government.