

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:269

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006

SALE OF F -16 TO PAKISTAN

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an agreement has been signed recently between America and Pakistan regarding sale of F-16 aircraft;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether any protest has been lodged with the US in view of the security threat to India;
- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a)-(b) The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has notified the US Congress on 28 June 2006 of a possible sale of 36 F-16C/D Block 50-52 Aircraft. The DSCA has also notified its intention of a possible supply of 60 F-16A/B Mid-Life Update Modification kits and Falcon Star Structured Service Life Enhancement Kits with associated equipment and services.

(c)-(e) The issue of US planning to supply F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan has been the subject of discussion with the US Government for some time. The Prime Minister has even in the past, expressed his disappointment to US President at the US approach on supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Official Spokesperson of the Government reiterated this Indian position on 3 July 2006, stating that this step is not conducive to improving ties between India and Pakistan.

(f) The Government will continue to engage US Government to limit sale of advanced military technology to Pakistan which could be used against India. Government would also continue to modernize and equip Indian armed forces to deal with all threats to national security.