

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1296
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deadline to fly Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) by Indian Air Force has further been delayed as reported in the Times of India, dated July 17, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of project cost escalated due to such delay; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the induction of LCA in IAF?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The LCA Programme has encountered time overrun with respect to the estimated time frame proposed for Operational Clearance. Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) of LCA is expected to be completed by 2008 and 2010, respectively. Time overrun is encountered because of time taken to overcome technological complexities, Foreign Exchange crunch in 1991, revised systems requirement by IAF and export restriction by USA.
- (c) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I was Rs. 2188 Crore which has been completed after meeting all objectives. The FSED Phase-II cost is Rs. 3301 Crore which includes development of single seater and trainer aircraft.
- (d) Order by IAF and concurrent production by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is taken up through FSED Phase-II Programme.