

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3471
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTERS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) by HAL has made its inaugural flight recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the features which are technologically advanced;
- (c) the schedule for induction of the helicopter in Air Force;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to export the said helicopters to other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The indigenously designed and developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) made its inaugural flight on 29.3.2010. The helicopter is in the 5.5 ton category with narrow fuselage, tandem seat configuration for pilot and co-pilot with glass cockpit.
- (c) LCH's initial operational clearance (IOC) is scheduled for December, 2011. After achievement of IOC, the schedule for final operational clearance (FOC) will be formalized. After receipt of FOC, HAL will approach IAF for supply orders and the delivery schedule.
- (d) & (e): LCH will be initially inducted into the IAF and subsequently to other Indian Armed Forces. Possibility of export will arise only after meeting the requirement of the Indian Armed Forces.