

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1804
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
LIGHT TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FOR IAF
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL) has prepared a Detailed Project Report for manufacturing of indigenous 14 seater 'Saras' a light transport aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard;
- (c) the time frame by which the aircraft will be rolled out;
- (d) whether Indian Air Force (IAF) took interest in this project and approved the project report ; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (e): Yes Madam. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the manufacture of 14 seater 'SARAS'-a Light Transport Aircraft (LTA), jointly prepared by CSIR-NAL and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bengaluru was submitted to the Directorate of ASR (Air Staff Requirements), Air Headquarters in 2009. The production programme has been planned as a concurrent activity alongwith the development / certification phase. Indian Air Force (IAF) has expressed an interest to procure 15 SARAS aircraft in current Plan period. The first aircraft would be delivered to IAF by HAL in the third year after formal sanction of the production programme.