

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4239
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
JOINT VENTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AIRCRAFT
Panda Shri Baijayant

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared the detailed project report for the development of aircraft in collaboration with Russia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the expenditure proposed for the purpose;
- (c) the time frame within which this new aircraft would be inducted in the Indian Air Force;
- (d) whether the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company has signed certain agreements with India to enhance cooperation in aerospace and defence sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) & (b): An Inter Government Agreement (IGA) between Government of India and Government of Russian Federation was signed for formation of Joint Venture (JV) in November 2007 to develop a new Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA) for Defence Sector with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the Indian Partner. A preliminary project report prepared in 2006 envisaging a development cost of USD 600 million for a transport aircraft of weight class 20 tons.
- (c): It is expected that commencement of production of the aircraft will take 7 to 8 years from 'Go Ahead' sanction.
- (d) & (e): No agreement has been signed between European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and India to enhance cooperation in aerospace and defence sector. However, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has entered into a contract with EADS for consultancy on LCA, specifically for flight testing.