

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
PURCHASE OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT
Mohan Shri P. C.;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate steps have been taken to overcome the shortage of aircraft/trainer aircraft and helicopters in the Indian Air Force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the ongoing/finalized deals for procurement of aircraft/helicopters from various countries including '126 medium multi-role combat aircraft Rafale' from France recently;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;
- (d) the reasons for preferring Rafale over other aircraft including Typhoon indicating the comparative details of their capabilities;
- (e) whether the said aircraft has met all the parameters in field evaluation trials; and
- (f) the time by which the delivery of the aircraft is likely to start/be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.75 FOR ANSWER ON 19.3.2012

(a) Yes, Madam. Induction of new aircraft and replacement of existing aircraft is an on-going process and various steps have been taken by the Government to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(b) & (c): The IAF is in the process of inducting additional SU-30 MKI aircraft, Light Combat Aircraft, Medium Lift Helicopters, Advanced Light Helicopters as well as C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft to augment its combat aircraft, helicopter and transport aircraft fleet. Proposals are also being progressed for the procurement of Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), Attack Helicopters and Heavy Lift Helicopters as well as Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft and Medium Transport Aircraft. For its trainer fleet, procurement of Intermediate Jet Trainer and Advance Jet Trainer has been approved. A proposal for procurement of Basic Trainer aircraft is being progressed for seeking approval of the competent authority. The total expenditure to be incurred on the above procurements will be known once all the proposals are finalized.

(d) & (e): The Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) was issued to six manufacturers of fighter aircraft. Of the six proposals received in response to the RFP, the proposals of M/s Dassault Aviation for Rafale and M/s EADS Germany for Eurofighter Typhoon were found compliant to the technical requirements in the field evaluation trials. The Contract Negotiations Committee (CNC) which is currently in progress found the proposal of M/S Dassault Aviation as the lowest in terms of cost. Final decision will be taken after the CNC submits its recommendations.

(f) The first Squadron of MMRCA consisting of 18 aircraft is expected to be inducted within 3 to 4 years of signing of the contract. The remaining 108 aircraft will be manufactured under license by M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and are expected to be inducted over the following seven years.