

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4111  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015  
LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTERS  
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether advanced Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) are under-construction by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to replace the aging fleets of Cheetah and Chetak Helicopters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the LCH prototypes called TD-3 and TD-4 have been subjected to field trials in high altitudes and in cold climates;
- (d) if so, whether the prototypes passed the threshold of experimentations;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the LCHs, are likely to be inducted into the IAF?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) & (b): The Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) is being developed by HAL to cater to the requirements of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for a Combat Helicopter. It is not a replacement for the ageing fleets of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters as LCH is a 5.5 Ton class twin engine armed helicopter whereas Cheetah and Chetak are sub 3 ton single engine unarmed utility helicopters.
- (c) to (e): As per the requirement, one of the LCH prototypes needs to be subjected to field trials in high altitude and in cold weather. TD-2 prototype has successfully passed the cold weather trials at High altitude. TD-3 and TD-4 prototypes will be utilized for other flight test requirements.
- (f) The production plan of LCHs has been made from 2017-18 onwards subject to firm order from IAF for limited series production.