

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2053

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015

Light Combat Aircraft

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several shortcomings have been reported in Mark-1 version of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas which has been under development for over three decades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the alternative temporary measures taken by the Indian Air Force on account of the delay in manufacturing and supply of LCA, Tejas along with the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to build a new improved version of LCA, Tejas with the help of private sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings of Mark-1, version of LCA, Tejas and complete the project in a time bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): The following shortcomings have been reported in Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas-Mk-I.

• Absence of Internal Jammer affecting survivability.

• Aircraft performance shortfalls.

• Maintainability issues.

The above shortcomings were primarily due to following reasons:

• Internal jammer technology at that time was based on TWT amplifier which needed about 1000 ltr volume space for integration on aircraft. Hence it could not be accommodated at the time of development of LCA Tejas, Mk-I.

• The maintainability issues were raised by Indian Air Force (IAF) late in 2009, when design and drawings were already frozen for Mk-I. However, many of the safety critical maintenance issues are already addressed in Mk-I.

(c) to (e): Government has sanctioned project for development of LCA Mk-II in 2009. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is the prime agency for development of LCA Mk-II with the public and private partnerships.

All the above mentioned shortcomings in LCA Mk-I have been addressed in LCA Mk-II version.
