

Manufacture of Mirage-2000.

*7. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to exercise the option to manufacture Mirage-2000 in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for our foregoing to manufacture these aircraft in India?

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c). An agreement for procurement of 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft, together with associated supplies, was concluded with the French manufacturers in 1982. An option was also retained for possible indigenous manufacture of these aircraft. Subsequently, Government decided not to exercise this option on techno-economic considerations.

**Intrusion of Pakistani Combat Planes
into Indian Territory**

*8. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press report regarding recent intrusion by a number of Pakistani combat planes into Indian territory on a photo mapping mission;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistani and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistani to refrain from such activities.

Mangalore Refinery in Karnataka

*9. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to start the Mangalore Refinery in Karnataka state;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the Chairman of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation recently made a press statement in Bangalore and denied it;

(c) if so, whether Government are also aware that the former Minister of Petroleum had assured on the floor of the House that the Mangalore Refinery would be started soon;

(d) if so, the latest position of Government in this regard; and

(e) when the Mangalore Refinery will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (e). Government have under consideration a proposal to set up a refinery at Mangalore in Karnataka State of a capacity of six million tonnes per annum. However, during the exercise made for financing of the VII Plan, it was noticed that the shortfall of resources for public sector outlays in the Plan was acting as a constraint. I had also an occasion to refer to this constraint of resources in this House in reply to supplementaries on Starred Question No. 649 on 30th April, 1985. Government are, therefore, exploring other avenues for financing projects like the Mangalore Refinery. Some private parties have shown interest in participating in a joint venture. The matter is under consideration.

The Chairman, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in a routine press conference had, no doubt, referred to the absence of provision in public sector outlays in the Plan for his company for the Mangalore Refinery.