

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, you have said that both the questions will be taken together.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he will answer both.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): I will answer both the questions.

Merits of Jaguar Aircraft Vis-a-Vis Other Aircrafts

***45. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR :
SHRI P. KANNAN :**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the proposed purchase of Jaguars from U.K.;

(b) the number of aircraft proposed to be purchased, the value and the relative merits of the aircraft as compared to similar aircraft available in other countries; and

(c) the specific over-riding considerations for going for Jaguars indicating the advantages of precision and combat value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). The ageing and obsolescent fleet of Hunters and Canberras of the IAF require early replacement by a current aircraft fulfilling the same role.

Three types of aircraft were considered for the purpose, namely, the Anglo-French JAGUAR. The French MIRAGE-F.I and the Swedish VIGGEN.

All the three planes were carefully evaluated, in all aspects by teams of experts and other senior officials belonging to the Air Force, HAL and the Ministries of Finance and Defence. The reports of these teams were carefully considered by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, and the Committee selected the

Jaguar for the following main reasons:—

(1) The Jaguar—like the other two aircrafts—fulfilled the operational and technical requirements of the Air Force;

(2) the Jaguar was considerably more favourable on prices as well as delivery scheduled; and

(3) the Jaguar, with its two-engine characteristic was adjudged by the Air Force experts as offering better survival capability.

In arriving at the decision, the views of the former as well as present Chief of Air Staff were taken into account.

The IAF's requirement is for an aircraft fulfilling the Strike/Ground-attack role at present performed by the Hunters and Canberras. The Jaguar is a specialised aircraft and was developed jointly by the British and the French specifically for such a role.

It has specialised equipment required for such a role, to which Air Force experts attach special importance.

Roughly, three-fourths of our requirement is proposed to be manufactured in India; the remaining will be purchased as Flyaways.

It will not be in the public interest nor in the interest of national security to disclose exact numbers or other actual figures.

Follow up Measures after Jaguar Deal

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***46. SHRI S. R. DAMANI :
SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a follow-up measure of the Jaguar Deal with the British Aeor-Space Corporation, Government