

Indigenous Production of SU-30

220. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2342 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1999 and state:

(a) whether a decision for the phased production of SU-30 in India under licence has been finally taken; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Final decision on licence production of SU-30 MK-1 necessitates conclusion of agreement of acceptable terms and conditions and price for materials and transfer of technology. Preliminary discussions have been held with Russian manufacturers and a Price Negotiation Committee has been constituted. It is not possible at this stage of the negotiations to specify any time-frame for its conclusion enabling a final decision to be taken.

Arms Haul in Operation Leech

221. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of Operation Leech, the Indian Armed Forces had made a big haul of smuggled arms and uncovered the operations of the so called Arakan Army, an insurgent group based in Myanmar;

(b) if so, the results of the investigation; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Apart from a big haul of arms and ammunition, 73 gun runners were also apprehended during Operation Leech. 25 of these gun runners reportedly belong to the Arkanese Army.

(b) and (c) The investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation has not yet been completed.