

enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Import of High Altitude Operationable Helicopters

1327. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army is importing helicopters designed for high altitude operations from Russia, United States and Europe;

(b) if so, whether Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. is unable to deliver similar helicopters in the near future and;

(c) when would the HAL be able to build high altitude operationable helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal to import helicopters to replace Cheetah and Chetak for high altitude operations for which global 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) was issued.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at present does not manufacture helicopter in the category for which RFP has been issued. The proposal envisages import of some helicopters and Transfer of Technology from the successful vendor to enable HAL to manufacture the helicopters.

(c) HAL will be able to manufacture these helicopters after acquiring the Transfer of Technology.

Setting UP of a Group for More Private Participation in Defence Production

1328. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a group to suggest

concrete steps to be taken for more participation by the private sector in defence production;

(b) if so, whether the said group had submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar, Ex-adviser to Finance Minister, to examine and make recommendations to ensure effective participation of private sector in Defence Production.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Poor Response of Private Investors in Defence Sector

1329. SHRI BALAVANT *Alias* BALAPTE:
SHRI S.U. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to open defence sector for private sector has got a poor response;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to attract the private investors in defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) After opening Defence Production for private sector participation in May 2001, 42 applications have been received from private companies for manufacture of various types of defence equipment. Against these, the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, has so far issued 18