

Purchase of 197 LUHs

187. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is buying 197 Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the buying process started in 2003; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay and the action being taken by Government to speed up the process?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Sir, there is a proposal for procurement of 187 Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) under design and development project undertaken by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- (c) The project was sanctioned by Government of India in February, 2009.
- (d) The project is proceeding as per approved time lines.

Kaveri aero engine developed by DRDO

188. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the Kaveri aero engine in collaboration with French firm;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether DRDO has made consultations with Indian Air Force before the finalization of the said agreement; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is negotiating with M/s SNECMA, France for co-development and co-production of Kaveri Aero Engine for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas Mk-II.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Air Force (IAF) has been consulted at every stage and is part of negotiation for the co-development of Kaveri engine. The draft engine technical specification has been examined and cleared by IAF and has further suggested that the engine design should have minimal impact on the LCA, Tejas airframe for future retro-fitment.

E-ticketing project for travel by armed forces personnel

189. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: