

**Handing over of IJT to IAF by HAL**

2674. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target date for handing over of Sitara Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) to Indian Air Force by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL);
- (b) the reasons for missing at least five deadlines by HAL since 2007; and
- (c) the time by when the IJT is likely to have the initial operational clearance and would be handed over to IAF for intermediate training of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Development of IJT is in the advanced stages of certification with more than 800 test flights completed so far. The activities are progressing well with completion of Sea level trials, night flying trials, high altitude trials as well as weapon and drop tank trials. The activities left for obtaining Final Operational Clearance (FOC) are the refinement of stall characteristics and spin testing which will be commenced as soon as stall characteristics are refined.

The project was sanctioned in 1999 and the first and second prototypes flew in March 2003 and in March 2004 respectively. The prototypes were initially flight tested with the LARZAC Engines from SNECMA. To meet technical parameters, a high powered engine AL-55I from Russian was selected based on a global tender. Due to developmental issues in Russia, flight-worthy Engines were supplied to HAL in January, 2009 against the contractual schedule of January, 2007. Flights with these Engines commenced in May, 2009 after resolution of Engine-Aircraft interface issues with the Russians.

The Progress of project was affected due to loss of prototype during flight testing which necessitated major changes like total redesign of flight control system and associated increased number of design iteration for recovery and resolution.

All efforts are being made to achieve FOC by December 2014. Production of aircraft will commence immediately thereafter.

**Development of Teddim / Guite Road in Manipur**

2675. SHRI K.C. TYAGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Teddim Road linking Manipur and Myanmar and Guite Road, the only road linking Manipur and Mizoram is under Border Roads Organisation since 2010;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the above mentioned stretch of roads is reportedly in a pathetic condition for more than ten years and it is bringing a bad name to the BRO;