

(b) if so, whether Government will encourage creating indigenous defence manufacturing infrastructure in the form of DRDO labs, Defence PSUs, ordnance factories, some highly reputed educational institutions and a few industries in the private sector;

(c) whether Government will set a timeline to Indianize all defence production and become exporter of defence equipments instead of importer; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Government constantly reviews the security scenario and accordingly decides to induct appropriate defence equipment. This is a continuous process undertaken through procurement from various indigenous as well as foreign vendors to keep the armed forces in a state of readiness. Procurements from indigenous vendors accounts for a significant share in Capital acquisition.

Defence Production Policy focuses on greater self-reliance in design, development and production of equipment / weapon systems / platforms required for defence in as early a time frame as possible. There has been a thrust on indigenous manufacture of defence equipment through the collaborative efforts of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Ordnance Factory Board and the Indian Private Sector.

Delay in LCA project

204. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ambitious project of developing Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details of the project's current status and funds spent so far on this project;

(c) whether any extension of time has been given to complete this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Current status is as follows:

- Initial Operational Clearance-II (IOC-II) for Tejas Aircraft Air Force version has been obtained on 20th December, 2013.

- More than 2700 flights test have been completed utilizing 13 Tejas.
- All trials are progressing well towards Final Operational Clearance (FOC) of LCA Tejas.
- Aircraft build Standard documents have been released for Series Production (SP) Aircraft.
- On 31st March 2006, Indian Air Force (IAF) has executed a contract with HAL for production of 20 Tejas aircraft (Series Production) powered by GE-F404-IN20 engines in IOC configuration and production activities are in progress. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has cleared for 20 more aircraft in FOC configuration.

The expenditure incurred for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Air Force Mk-I) Programme *i.e.* Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I and Phase-II till 31st October 2014 is ₹7399.69 Crores.

(c) and (d) FSED Phase-II was sanctioned with original Probable Date of Completion (PDC) as December 2008 which has now been extended upto March 2015.

Resolution to Border Issues

205. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing problems along the Line of Control (LoC) and Actual Line of Control (ALoC), which seems to be perennial in nature; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to permanently resolve the issues along these two lines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) The ceasefire along India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir along the LoC and International Border (IB) came into effect from the intervening night of 25/26 November, 2003. This agreement has been violated by Pakistan from time to time. Appropriate retaliation, as required, to ceasefire violations is carried out by Indian Army along the Line of Control.

There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China. There are areas along the border where India and China have differing perceptions of the LAC. Transgressions occur on account of both sides undertaking patrolling up to their respective perceptions of the LAC.