

Capability for domestic production of Rafale Aircrafts

944. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is not capable of producing an advance aircraft such as Rafale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether no private player in India has the capability to execute such a sophisticated project;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to buy 36 Rafale fighters in direct purchase from France;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is a possibility to make Rafale fighters in India in near future; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (g) An advance aircraft such as Rafale can be produced in India after Transfer of Technology (ToT) by the Original Aircraft Manufacturer. As per the India-France Joint Statement issued by the two countries during the Prime Minister's visit to France, Government of India conveyed to the Government of France that in view of the critical operational necessity for Multirole Combat Aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF), Government of India would like to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition as quickly as possible. The two leaders agreed to conclude an Inter-Governmental Agreement for supply of the aircraft on terms that would be better than conveyed by Dassault Aviation as part of a separate process underway, the delivery would be in time-frame that would be compatible with the operational requirement of IAF and that the aircraft and associated systems and weapons would be delivered on the same configuration as had been tested and approved by IAF, and with a longer maintenance responsibility by France.

Infiltrations by Chinese troops into Indian Territory

945. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of incidents of infiltrations by the Chinese soldiers into Indian territory during the last three years, year-wise;