

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;

(b) whether Government is aware that the Chinese are trying to capture Pangong area on the border of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether Government held any talks with the Chinese Premier in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Chinese authorities thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) There have been no incident of infiltration by Chinese soldiers into Indian territory during last three years.

(b) to (d) 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 perception of LAC. Transgressions occur on account of both sides undertaking patrolling upto their perception of the LAC. Due to such difference of perceptions, transgressions have occurred in the general area of Pangong Tso Lake.

Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings and Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs wherein they are guided by various agreements between India-China.

(e) and (f) During the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India, Prime Minister raised concern over incidents along the border. The two leaders agreed that peace and tranquility in the border region constitutes an essential foundation for mutual trust and confidence and for realizing the full potential of our relationship. It was suggested that clarification of Line of Actual Control would greatly contribute to the efforts to maintain peace and tranquility.

Discarding of outdated arms and ammunitions

946. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present system in the Defence Forces to check and discard the outdated arms and ammunitions;

(b) whether any case of usage of outdated arms and ammunitions during training or exercise has been reported in the past two years ending 31 December, 2014;