

Induction of LCA

1732. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after decades IAF has received the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), if so, the details of the delay in the process thereof;
- (b) whether this LCA will meet the time-line challenges during operations; and
- (c) if so, the reports and further plans thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : (a) The First Series Production Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has been handed over to Chief of Air Staff by Raksha Mantri on 17th January 2015.

The following are some of the reasons for delay in completion of LCA project:

- *Ab-initio* development of the state-of-the-art technologies.
- Non-availability of trained/skilled manpower in the country.
- Non-availability of infrastructure / test facilities in the country.
- Unanticipated technical/technological complexities faced in structural design.
- Non-availability of critical components / equipment / materials and denial of technologies by the technologically advanced countries.
- Enhanced User's requirements or change in specifications during development.
- Increase in the scope of work.
- Inadequate production facility at HAL.

(b) and (c) Subsequent to achieving Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) status on 20th December 2013, Tejas series production has commenced. The first Squadron of 20 IOC standard aircraft is expected to be delivered by 2017-18. Efforts are underway to enhance the production capability.

FDI in defence sector

1733. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of FDI received in the defence sector in the previous year; and

(b) the details of defence projects that have been benefited from opening up of FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to ₹ 447.20 Lakhs has been received in the defence industry sector from April 2013-March 2014.

(b) After opening up of the defence industry sector for FDI, so far 33 FDI proposals / Joint Ventures have been approved with Indian companies for manufacture of various defence equipments such as Aircrafts, Helicopters, Unmanned aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Electronic Warfare Systems, Radars, Avionics, Weapons, Shipbuilding, Artillery Guns, Mortars, Ammunition and Armoured Vehicles etc.

Digitisation of Defence records

1734.SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiatives to promote e-Governance, e-Procurement, Digitisation of records, Defence Land records, war records etc. pertaining to Indian Defence has been undertaken in the recent past, if so, the details and the salient features of each of such initiatives;

(b) the time by which digitisation of all such records of Indian Defence are likely to be completed; and

(c) the extent to which digitisation system will be able to bring transparency in Indian Defence records?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : (a) to (c) Government has taken various initiatives to promote e-Governance in Defence Sector like Aadhaar enrolment for defence personnel and their dependents, Digital Life Certificate for retired defence personnel, Central Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for online complaint registration and Smart cards for accessing canteen facilities etc. Defence services have also implemented various IT initiatives for decision making relating to operational, manpower, infrastructure and procurement matters.

Using Raksha Bhoomi software, the Defence Land Records are also digitised by Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) with the objective of long term preservation and easy retrieval. Further, under the digitisation programme, the work of indexing, scanning and digitisation of records of Defence Estate Offices (DEOs) and Cantonment