

(b) the tentative date by which Rafale fighter aircraft will be inducted in the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) 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 Indian Air Force, and with a longer maintenance responsibility by France.

A Negotiating Team has been constituted to negotiate the terms and conditions of the procurement of 36 Rafale jets and recommend the draft agreement. The meetings of the Indian Negotiating team with the French side have commenced.

Procurement of bullet proof jackets

45. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced last year to procure fifty thousand new bullet proof jackets for the army; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for emergency procurement of fifty thousand bullet proof jackets not being materialized, so far;

(c) whether as on date the army lacks 1.86 lakh bullet proof jackets; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when actual procurement is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (d) Bullet proof jackets (BPJs) are scaled item. They are procured and provided to the armed forces as per laid down policy. The procurement case of 1,86,138 BPJs is at Trial stage and the case of 50,000 is at Technical Evaluation Committee stage.