

Helicopters, Rockets and Guns. Information related to employment of Indians in such projects is not maintained in the Department.

Capital procurement of Defence equipment is guided by the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) and the timelines given therein. The timelines are specifically prescribed in each contract.

Indigenous entrepreneurs in aviation equipment field

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

(a) whether it is a fact that percentage of indigenous procurement of aviation equipment for Indian Army has increased over the years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any policy to promote the entry of more entrepreneurs in the field of aviation equipment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Indigenous procurement of aviation equipment for Indian Army has increased. Indigenous Procurements have been carried out for items such as helicopters, helmets, test benches and Gyros. The Defence Production Policy promulgated in 2011 gives preference to indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment and providing a level playing field to Indian Industry *vis-a-vis* foreign industry. Government has also raised the FDI limit in defence production from 26% to 49% and liberalized the licensing regime. Capital Procurement of Defence Equipment is done through the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2013 which also provides for higher preference to the categories of Buy (Indian), Buy and Make (Indian) and Make (Indian) in that order.

Shortage of fighter planes in the Air Force

†1000. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force has quite less fighter planes in comparison to its requirement;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether it is not likely to affect the capability of the Air Force in adverse situations;

(c) the points focused upon in the Conference of Commanders of the Air Force in October and steps being taken to fulfil them; and

(d) the steps taken to build indigenous fighter planes and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) is equipped to cater for the threat environment that exists and is always ready to meet the role assigned to it. Operational preparedness of IAF is reviewed from time to time based on the threat perception. Further, augmentation of capabilities of IAF including its modernization is a dynamic and continuous process.

(c) During the Air Force Commanders Conference in October, 2015, all important issues related to operations were discussed and directions were given to take suitable measures to enhance the operational capability of IAF.

(d) The indigenous Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' has achieved initial operational clearance. The production phase is progressing concurrently with developmental activity.

Foolproof coastal and marine security

1001. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to ensure coastal and marine security foolproof, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what efforts are being made to plug security loopholes in the coastal security especially off Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(c) in view of long coastline running to over 7500 kms., whether security and monitoring system will be strengthened to guard strategic installations and important cities and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government regularly reviews the threat perception from time to time and takes appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the country. It includes review by National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against threats from the sea (NCSMCS). The last meeting of NCSMCS was held on 16.10.2015.