

Equipping armed forces with advanced weaponry

1015. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has deployed adequate forces in the bordering areas with sufficient effective arms and ammunitions, artilleries to combat and control the aggression by the Chinese and Pakistan troops, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken appropriate steps to provide defence personnel with technologically advanced arms and ammunitions, gadgets and infrastructure, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Government regularly reviews the threat perception to secure our borders and protect national interest. Appropriate measure are taken through development of infrastructure as well as deployment of defence forces to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India. Government is taking measures to ensure the modernization of Indian Defence Forces, to keep the Forces in a state of readiness to meet operational and security challenges. This is being achieved by inducting new equipment, technologically upgrading existing equipment and systems, training etc.

Induction of Tejas Aircraft

1016. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas has been inducted into the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, when and how many along with the details thereof;

(c) whether the aircraft has received Final Operation Clearance and if not, by when it is likely to;

(d) whether a Tejas Mark II is being developed and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to join squadron service and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - Tejas

squadron was formed on 1st July, 2016 with two aircraft. Three LCA Initial Operation Clearance (IOC) Series Production Aircraft have so far been delivered to the Indian Air Force by HAL.

(c) The Final Operational Clearance (FOC) is expected to be completed by June, 2018.

(d) and (e) The LCA Mk 2 is in the Design and Development stage.

Private sector involved in defence manufacturing

1017. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made several policy changes to ease the entry of private sector in defence manufacturing, if so, details thereof;

(b) the details of Indian companies to whom Industrial Licenses have been issued for manufacturing defence products indicating the terms and conditions of the licenses;

(c) whether those companies have commenced production and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of measures taken to watch the activities of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Some of the policy initiatives taken by the Government to ease the entry of private sector in defence manufacturing are as follows:—

- (i) The parts/components, casting and forgings of defence equipments have been excluded from the purview of industrial licensing under Industries (Development and Regulation) [IDR] Act, 1951. Initial validity of industrial licence for defence has been revised to fifteen years, further extendable upto eighteen years for existing as well as future licenses under IDR Act.
- (ii) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy in defence sector has been reviewed in June 2016, and as per the new policy, FDI up to 49% is allowed under automatic route and above 49% under Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded. To further the ease of process of approvals, the Government has abolished