The Contract negotiations had reached an impasse and the RFP was formally withdrawn on 24th June, 2015. To meet the Critical Operational Necessity of the IAF, 36 Rafale were procured through the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) route.

(c)   Yes, Sir.

(d)   The Government decided to procure 36 Rafale aircraft through Government to Government route to meet the 'Critical Operational Necessity' of the IAF. Accordingly, an Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on 23rd September, 2016 between the Government of India and French Republic. The process was completed following the laid down procedures.

Shortage of ammunition in WWR

162.   PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is a shortage of ammunition held in War Wastage Reserve (WWR) as on November, 2017;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c)   the details of procurement orders for ammunition which are pending;

(d)   whether the Ministry is taking steps to reduce the shortage of ammunition in WWR; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The authorization and holding of ammunition is as per operational requirement of the Indian Army. Adequate reserves have been authorised in terms of War Wastage Reserves (WWR). There is adequate stock of ammunition with the Indian Army and it is well equipped for meeting any operational requirements.

Further, making up of stock of ammunition to desired level is a continuous process, the requirements for which are identified every year and procurements are undertaken accordingly. Recently 19 contracts amounting to ₹ 11,739.83 crore have been finalized by the Indian Army.

(d) and (e)   Some of the measures taken to ensure adequate availability of ammunition include placing of a Five Year Roll On Indent on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), finalization of Ammunition Road Map in respect of certain identified ammunition

and procurements thereof. In addition, financial power to ensure the availability and maintenance of minimum levels of critical ammunition has been delegated to the Army to meet any emergent requirement and to enable them to maintain military preparedness at all times.

Agreement with France for supply of Rafale fighter jets

163.   SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that Government has made an agreement with France for supply of Rafale fighter jets;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   what is the difference between original request for proposal issued in 2007 and present agreement; and

(d)   what is the amount Government is spending for this deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on 23rd September, 2016 between the Government of India and French Republic for the procurement of 36 Rafale aircraft including weapons, long term maintenance support, simulators along with 10 years of annual maintenance and associated equipment.

(c) and (d) The Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) proposal was for procurement of 126 aircraft in which 18 aircraft were direct fly-away aircraft and 108 aircraft were to be License Manufactured in India. In the present procurement, 36 Rafale aircraft are being procured in direct fly-away condition under Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Government of India and French Republic. In the IGA, better terms have been achieved in terms of better pricing, better maintenance terms and better delivery schedule.

Recruitment of female cadets in the Army, Navy and Air Force

164.   SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of female cadets who have been recruited in the Army, Air Force and Navy during the last three years; and

(b)   whether Government is taking any initiative to increase the participation of women in the defence services of the country and if so, the details thereof?