

Delivery of Rafale fighter jets

*58. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 36 Rafale fighter jets were supposed to be delivered in fly-away condition in a deal struck by the Government;
- (b) if so, how many jets have been delivered to India till now;
- (c) the reasons as to why there is a delay in delivery when the deal was struck for immediate requirement; and
- (d) the timeline of delivery of 36 jets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) As per the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic, delivery of 36 Rafale aircraft in a fly-away condition along with associated equipment and weapons will commence from September, 2019 and will be completed by April, 2022. The project is progressing as per schedule.

Advanced technologies to deal with air pollution

*59. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry held meeting with expert agencies to discuss application of advanced technologies to deal with air pollution incidents and improve overall air quality management framework;
- (b) whether Government plans to use satellite-based Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) data for estimating ground based PM 2.5 levels, establishing early warning system and dissemination protocol to inform public and enforcing agencies about episodic high pollution events in advance; and
- (c) whether Government plans to set up a system for certification of air quality emission monitoring instruments to provide a boost to local manufacturing of air quality monitoring instruments and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Meetings have been held by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) with experts from institutions such as Satellite Application Centre (SAC), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-Satellite Application Center (SAC),