

India-Russia Inter-Governmental Agreement on mega-project

1284. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for a mega project in 2007, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the project has been stuck for the last eleven years due to differences between two sides on sharing the cost of developing jets and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time line has been fixed about the number of jets to be produced, the latest status, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed on 18th October 2007 with the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in development and production of a prospective Multi-Role Fighter aircraft.

The Preliminary Design phase was completed in 2013. Discussions on the extent to which the proposed aircraft meets our operational requirements and the costs and benefits of the project have not been concluded.

Pension criterion for Army jawans

1285. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new proposal has been mooted by the personnel section of the Army which requires jawans to put in more number of years into service and also a change in pension rules;

(b) whether One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme led to a spike in the number of troops seeking premature retirement; and

(c) whether the minimum qualifying service for pension has been raised from fifteen years to twenty years of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAM RAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per Para 4 of Ministry of Defence order dated 07.11.2015 on One Rank One Pension (OROP), Armed Forces personnel who proceed on Pre Mature Retirement after issue of the order are not entitled to the benefits of OROP Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.