

**Progress in production of Tejas aircraft**

1286. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous Tejas fighter, first approved way back in 1983, after several target revisions, has missed yet another deadline to become fully combat-ready;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken to fast track the production and time frame given for final operational clearance (FOC);

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of aircraft carriers; and

(d) the steps taken to enhance the production of indigenous aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two contracts were signed between IAF and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for procurement of (i) 20 Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) standard aircraft on 31st March 2006 to be completed by December 2011 and (ii) 20 Final Operational Clearance (FOC) standard aircraft on 23rd December 2010 to be completed by 2016.

Out of total 20 IOC aircraft (16 fighters and 4 trainers), 9 fighters have been delivered by HAL to IAF till date. The production of remaining 11 IOC aircraft (7 fighter + 4 trainer) are taken up at HAL. The aircraft is currently capable of undertaking Air Defence Operations and conventional ground attack with heavy bombs is feasible.

Production for 20 FOC aircraft, will be taken up after FOC clearance by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for which current target is December, 2018.

In order to fast track the production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and to achieve FOC clearance given by ADA, the following initiatives have been taken:-

- For ramping up production capacity from existing 8 aircraft to 16 aircraft per annum, Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned ₹ 1381.04 crore in March, 2017.
- Enhancing production rate of LCA Tejas primarily through outsourcing of major modules to private partners with HAL moving to the role of lead integrator.
- Establishment of second line for structural and equipping activities at Aircraft Division, HAL.

- Increase in number of jigs for Front fuselage, Centre fuselage, Rear fuselage and Wings.
- Reduction in manufacturing cycle time through improved Supply Chain Management, learning and augmentation of manpower.
- Modularization of electrical looms for reduction of cycle time of aircraft looming.

(c) Besides, 40 aircraft (20 IOC and 20 FOC), Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has cleared acquisition of 83 LCA Mk1A for IAF for which quotation has been submitted by HAL.

(d) Further, in order to bolster the fighter squadron strength, Government of India has also planned to manufacture fighter aircraft through Strategic Partnership model.

### **Strategic partnership policy**

1287. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the “Strategic Partnership” (SP) policy to boost the Indian private sectors role in production of military hardware in collaboration with global armament majors has become operational, and, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a delay in operationalising the SP model and whether this has affected adversely the status of preparedness of the Armed Forces;

(c) whether the model suffers from lack of clarity and transparency, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the segments which are likely to be taken up for execution through the “SP” route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The policy on Strategic Partnerships in Defence Sector was promulgated on 31.05.2017 as Chapter-VII of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 titled as “Revitalising Defence Industrial Ecosystem through Strategic Partnerships”. The Chapter was uploaded on Ministry of Defence website: <https://www.mod.nic.in> and came into effect immediately on its promulgation.

The following 04 segments (major platforms) have been identified under Strategic Partnership (SP) Model: Fighter Aircrafts, Helicopters, Submarines and Armoured Fighting Vehicles/Main Battle Tanks. Since promulgation of the SP policy, Requests for Information (RFIs) have been issued for all four segments – Naval Utility Helicopter