

Adherence to ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan

1936. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan decided at a Brigade Commander level flag meeting to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this understanding was arrived at after a spurt in cross border firing duels over the last several months;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Pakistan army assured that it will institute measures to maintain peace and tranquillity along LoC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Pakistan Army has suggested measures to maintain peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control (LC) and prevent unnecessary escalation.

Construction of portable bridges to improve road network in Gadchiroli

1937. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal received from the Maharashtra Government is pending with Government for entering into a tripartite MoU between Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Ship Builders Ltd. for construction of portable bridges in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra to improve connectivity between 250 villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) time Government is likely to take to finalise the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal of an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was received by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) from the Government of Maharashtra on 3rd August, 2018 for supply of 100 Bailey type Bridges.

(b) and (c) The initial draft MoU for construction of 100 Bailey type Portable Steel Bridges was submitted by GRSE to the concerned authorities on 9th August, 2018. After deliberation with the State Government, GRSE has resubmitted a revised draft MoU proposal on 11th September, 2018 and is awaiting confirmation from the Government of Maharashtra regarding the finalization and signing of the MoU.

Progress in production of Tejas

1938. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's first indigenous combat fighter aircraft Tejas which was first approved in 1983 is not yet combat ready;

(b) if so, the reason that this indigenous fighter aircraft had been missing its target for getting the FOC (Final Operational Clearance) for the last couple of years; and

(c) number of aircrafts of this type that are in the making and by when they are to be delivered for combat use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has already achieved Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) in December, 2013 for fighter version of aircraft and 10 fighter version aircraft have been delivered to Indian Air Force. These aircraft are equipped with various combat equipment as envisaged for IOC version of aircraft.

(b) Final Operational Clearance (FOC) was initially planned by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for December, 2012. However the same has not yet been achieved by ADA.

Delays in attaining FOC have been mainly due to delay in finalization of Air to Air Refuelling contract; challenges faced in integration of Air to Air Refuelling probe and associated major hardware (structural modification) and software (Flight control software) modification and flight testing etc.

(c) Two contracts were signed between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., (HAL) for procurement of (i) 20 Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) standard aircraft, including 16 IOC fighters and 04 trainers on 31st March, 2006 to be completed in December, 2011 and (ii) 20 Final Operational Clearance (FOC) standard aircraft including 16 FOC fighters and four trainers on 23rd December, 2010 to be completed by December, 2016.