

preparedness and technological upgradation of the Navy, costing the exchequer several crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that multi-billion-dollar effort to replace the Navy's warship fleet has got the Defence PSUs battling infrastructural constraints, as well as setbacks in the development of indigenised weapons and sensors and delays in trial; and

(c) steps taken by Government to achieve the inspirational target of manufacturing seventy per cent of defence equipment indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) There have been occasion where Warship Construction Projects of Indian Navy have had time and/or cost overruns due to design finalization, delay in receipt of critical equipment/technology, infrastructural constraints of the shipyard and delay in development of indigenized equipment/weapon. Modernization of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in terms of infrastructure to enhance productivity from time to time on required basis is also undertaken by the Ministry.

(c) Indigenisation of equipment/systems, sub-systems, components fitted onboard ships and submarines, Indian Naval Indigenisation Pan-2015-30, are some of the steps taken to indigenize manufacturing of Defence equipment.

Procedure followed for the Rafale Jets contract

779. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exact date on which the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the deal for 36 Rafale Jets in France;

(b) the exact date on which the Cabinet Committee on Security approved the deal for 36 Rafale Jets;

(c) whether any concerns regarding pricing raised by Defence Ministry Officials in the Indian Negotiation Team; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) A joint statement was issued on 10th April, 2015 during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to France which indicated an intent to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition. After approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security

(CCS) on 24th August, 2016, an Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on 23rd September, 2016.

(c) and (d) The Indian Negotiation Team (INT) followed the collegiate process and all views of various members of the INT were recorded and addressed suitably. All the members of the INT had signed the Report.

**Requirement of air force and recommendation note
by senior bureaucrats for Rafale**

780. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Government has made any change or revised any contract on Rafale deal that has been earlier signed with French Government;

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

(c) whether Air Force had made any submission to Defence Ministry of their requirement for the number of Rafale Fighter Jets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any senior bureaucrat or Air Force officers made any objection or note of apprehension on the procedure or the way Rafale deal has been conducted with France; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) No deal for Rafale aircraft was entered into earlier by the Government. Due to the impasse in negotiations the Request for Proposal (RFP) for 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) was withdrawn in June, 2015. In order to meet the Critical Operational Necessity for fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF), 36 Rafale aircraft are being procured through an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic.

The IGA was signed on 23rd September, 2016 between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic for the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in fly-away condition, along with an initial consignment of weapons, maintenance support through Performance Based Logistic (PBL), Simulator and associated equipment.

(e) and (f) The Indian Negotiation Team (INT) followed the collegiate process and all views of various members of the INT were recorded and addressed suitably. All the members of the INT had signed the Report.