

India-France talks on Deffence

780. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and France had a talk in Paris recently for transfer of technology for manufacture of Mirage 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other areas of understanding reached with France during the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited alongwith the Indian Air Force has participated in joint technical discussions with M/s. Dassault Aviation, M/s. Thales and M/s. Snecma, France to assess the feasibility of production and transfer of technology for manufacture of Mirage 2000-5 MK II aircraft. The discussions are at a preliminary stage.

Compensation to soldiers killed during Kargil War

†781. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers killed during the Kargil war;

(b) the number of soldiers killed since the end of Kargil war till date;

(c) whether Government have given full compensation to the next of kin of those killed during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of soldiers killed during Kargil Conflict is as under:

Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks	Total
26	23	473	522

(b) The details of soldiers killed thereafter upto 22nd November, 2002 are as under:

Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks	Total
108	150	1496	1754

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Casualty figures for the latter part of 2002 are subject to minor modification on review :

(c) and (d) A comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of those killed in enemy/terrorist action. Payment of dues is a continuing process and all benefits as applicable to the next of kin of deceased soliders are being paid on completion of necessary documentation and on meeting of legal requirements. Payment of dues has been completed in respect of 514 casualties of Kargil Conflict and about 1200 NOKs of casualties thereafter.

Project 75 of Naval Submarine Design Bureau

782. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naval Submarine Design Bureau has launched its Project 75; and

(b) if so, the details of its target alongwith the estimated expenses per unit and the timeframe set for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Project 75 is part of this plan. Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) Mumbai has been identified as the yard to ultimately construct French designed Scorpene Submarines on successful completion of negotiations with the French Company. However, no final decision on the proposal has been taken.

Defence Cooperation with Laos

783. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to step up defence cooperation with Laos; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). During the visit of Prime Minister to Laos in November 2002, an Agreement on Defence Cooperation was signed between India and Laos. This Agreement will provide the institutional framework for greater cooperation between the two countries, in defence related matters.