

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006

SHORTAGE OF LIGHT FIGHTER PLANES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Jogi Shri Ajit;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya
Madhavrao;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any shortage of light fighter planes in Air Force;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the current status of the availability of light fighter planes in Air Force;
- (c) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has signed a joint venture agreement with aerospace major Pratt & Whitney Canada to set up an aircraft maintenance, repair and over haul (MRO) facility in Bangalore as reported in The Times of India dated November 28, 2006;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the salient features of the agreement; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to speed up the procurement of Light Combat Aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) & (b): Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness.
- (c) & (d): Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pratt & Whitney, Canada, to explore feasibility of jointly setting up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for their aeroengines.
- (e) A contract for procurement of 20 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) configuration from HAL has been signed by Government in March, 2006.