

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:440
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007
DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMBAT AIRCRAFT
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the India and Russia plan to develop advanced combat aircraft as reported in the 'Hindu' dated January 24, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Russia has offered to produce combat helicopters capable of high altitude flying and also the fifth generation combat aircraft-MiG-35 jointly to replace the Indian ageing fighter fleet;
- (d) if so, whether any understanding has been reached between the two countries in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) & (b): Co-Development of a Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) has been identified as an important area of co-operation between the Indian and Russian Governments. Technical discussions to work out the details are in progress. Efforts are on for negotiations and finalization of the draft Inter Governmental Agreement in this regard.
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) had invited proposals from international partners including Russian Helicopter manufacturer for co-development of Multi-role Helicopter (10 Tonnes). The Russian side is also interested in bidding for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) with MiG-35 Aircraft.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.