

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding procurement of Rafale aircraft.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The huge escalation of per-aircraft cost from Rs.715 crore to Rs.1600 crore has not been convincing to the people of India. The procurement procedures were bypassed in acquisition of Rafale and the presence of Anil Ambani in France during Modi's announcement to acquire 36 fully built Aircraft will raise questions on government's intention. The Public Undertaking, HAL was bypassed in Rafale contract. The escalation of prices was only to help one industrialist who is very close to the ruling party and Prime Minister. Government is saying the differences between the GA and the proposed acquisition under MMRCA tender, the new agreement had provisions for training, a better performance-based logistics package and aircraft maintenance and overhaul facilities that were not present in the original proposal is only to misguide the country. Indian Government led by Narendra Modi is trying to defame the capabilities of government-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to help Reliance for the offset deal with Dassault. Former French President Francois Hollande has been quoted by an article on a French Mediapart, an online investigative and opinion journal as stating that the Indian government had asked the French government to nominate Reliance Defence Ltd. as its India partner in the Rafale deal. This shows the government is keen to pave the way for breaching our security by changing the policies of procurement to help Reliance Defence Ltd for getting the part of the contract by alleged unfair means. The offsets contracts in the deal are alleged to be the biggest example of crony capitalism. I demand to form a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the biggest scam of the Government after Independence.