GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 324
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th November 2019)

PRODUCTION OF CIVILIAN AIRPLANES

324. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the country is capable of producing commercially viable passenger airplanes for civilians at present;
(b) if so, the details thereof including latest available data on production plants and units produced;
(c) if not, what plans are being implemented, if any, for production of these airplanes;
(d) whether the Ministry has data of number of foreign aircrafts imported by Air India over the last three years and costs incurred on the same, and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c): The existing aviation and aerospace manufacturing eco-system in India has enabled the development and manufacturing of commercially viable passenger airplanes for civilian use. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) had produced over 80 AVRO (HS-748) aircraft with a seating capacity of 36 passengers for commuter operations. Presently, HAL is manufacturing the 19-seater Dorniel--228 aircraft for providing regional air connectivity. Certificate of Airworthiness for two of these aircraft has been received by HAL from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Separately, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed the experimental version of SARAS, which is a multi-role civilian aircraft in the 14-seater aircraft capacity.

In a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries held on 18 May 2018, it was decided to encourage the development of the Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA) in India through the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the participation of HAL, National Aerospace Laboratories and Aeronautical Development Agency. In pursuance of the decisions of this meeting, a Committee was constituted with these entities for creation of the SPV for development of the RTA in India. Further, a Committee of Experts was constituted on the manufacture of aircraft, helicopters and associated equipment in India for the civil aviation sector.

(d) to (e): As per data furnished by Air India, it had imported 9 aircraft at a cost of USD 1.19 billion since 1 January 2016.

*****