

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.90**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2016

**LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT 'TEJAS'**

\*90. SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:  
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present strength of fighter squadrons is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF), and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Light Combat Aircraft -Tejasø has passed the induction test by the Aircraft System Testing Establishment in Bangaluru recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether with acquisition of more number of Tejas, the Indian Air Force has planned to replace its ageing fleet of MiG 21 fighter planes soon;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Tejas squadrons including Mark I and II are likely to be fully operational in the IAF; and
- (e) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited proposes to give more upgraded indigenously manufactured LCA to the Indian Air Force by 2018 and if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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(SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

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**(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.90 FOR ANSWER ON  
22.7.2016**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is equipped to cater for the threat environment that exists and is always ready to meet the role assigned to it. Operational preparedness of IAF is reviewed from time to time based on the threat perception.

Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas was conceptualized for the replacement of MIG-21 aircraft. Some of the squadrons of MIG-21 are due to retire over the next few years in a phased manner on completion of their Total Technical Life. However a few MIG-21 aircraft of IAF have been upgraded in order to ensure their operational relevance. LCA Tejas shall be an important part of IAF's fighter aircraft inventory filling up the lightweight category of fighters and replacing the MIG-21 aircraft. It shall be effectively used for air defence and for battlefield air strikes.

The first LCA, Tejas squadron has been formed on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 with two LCA Initial Operation Clearance (IOC) Series Production Aircraft (LCA-Mk 1) after requisite flight tests by Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE). Further, 18 more aircraft in IOC standard (LCA-Mk 1) are planned for induction by 2018-19. This would be followed by 20 more aircraft in Final Operation Clearance (FOC) standard (LCA-Mk 1), which are planned for induction from year 2019. The LCA Mk-2 is in design and development stage.

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