GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 557

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016

F-16 to Pakistan

CH. MALLA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the government is aware that the United States of America have agreed to sell F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan;
(b)if so, the details thereof;
(c)whether this decision of USA could impact our country's security adversely;
(d)if so, the response thereto; and
(e)the efforts made by the Government to ensure speedy finalization of purchase of modern fighter planes for the country from France?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRSbe pleased to state:-

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b)The United States Government has notified the sale of defense equipments to Pakistan including eight F-16 aircrafts. The proposal involves part funding by the US under its Foreign Military Financing (FMF) head. Some members of the US Congress have raised concerns on the proposed sale of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan.

(c) & (d)Government of India has expressed disappointment at the decision of the US Administration to notify the sale of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan. India does not agree with the US rationale that such arms transfers help to combat terrorism. The Government has strongly taken up this matter with the US Government and other stakeholders. Government of India has consistently conveyed that the US must take into account India-US relations and the impact on India's security in deciding its military assistance to Pakistan.

(e)Government of India had conveyed to the Government of France that in view of the critical operational necessity for Multirole Combat Aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF), Government of India would like to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition as quickly as possible. A Memorandum of Understanding between Indian and French Government was signed on January 25, 2016 finalizing the text of the Inter-Governmental Agreement except for few financial issues, which are currently under negotiation.