

VAYU Interview with

Admiral R. Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy

VAYU: *What kind of missiles is the IN acquiring for its surface fleet?*

Ans. Surface fleet would be augmented with indigenous Surface to Surface missiles and Surface to Air missiles under production. A comprehensive design and development programme for State of the art missile systems is underway and future ships will be equipped with these missiles.

in DAP 2020 to execute the Government's mission to achieve self-reliance in defence products. Design and development process is expected to take about 7 to 8 years to enable realisation of the platform commencing from ninth year of project sanction.

DBMRH for Indian Navy would be in three variants, viz, ASW/ ASuW, Special Ops and AEW.



VAYU: *There has been talk on the Indian Navy at some point ordering/ inducting the IMRH helicopter from HAL as of now called the DBMRH. Is this true and what is the roadmap?*

Ans. In keeping with the Make in India and AatmaNirbhar Bharat Vision of the Government, a case for design and development of Medium Lift Helicopter (MLH) of 12.5 to 14 T category is being progressed for Indian Defence Forces. This caters for requirement of Medium Lift Helicopters for IAF/ IA and Multi Role Helicopters for Indian Navy.

The case would be progressed under Buy (Indian-IDD) categorisation with Special Purpose Vehicle wherein HAL along with suitable private player(s) would undertake design and development of envisaged variants of IMRH and DBMRH.

The case is at pre-AoN stage wherein requisite provisions are being incorporated

VAYU: *A question you have been asked numerous times: how are the trials going on for the IAC aircraft plans, ie Rafale and F-18?*

Ans. Rafale M and F/A 18 have completed the Op Demo at SBTF,

Goa in Jan 22 and Jun 22 respectively towards verifying that the aircraft meet IN requirements as well as compatibility with the aircraft carriers. Staff Evaluation of both the aircraft is under deliberation. Post finalisation of the selection of the aircraft, an intergovernmental procurement process would be followed in accordance with the Defence Acquisition Procedure.

VAYU: *Can you tell us how useful have the General Atomic's UAS been for the Indian Navy ISR needs and are you satisfied enough to order more or lease more?*

Ans. Though IN has been operating RPAs for the last two decades, operations of Sea Guardian has greatly enhanced our surveillance capabilities. Sea Guardian RPA has enabled IN to increase surveillance activities over vast areas of Indian Ocean region ranging from Sunda Strait to Gulf of Aden. The high endurance of the aircraft has enabled IN to maintain persistent surveillance over larger areas.

