

Call to test products of small, medium enterprises

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The government should set up a centralised facility for testing the products manufactured by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), whose role in providing components to defence and aerospace departments in India is increasing tremendously, said Mr C.G. Krishnadas Nair, honorary president of Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries (SIATI), here on Monday.

Talking to newsmen on the sidelines of an international seminar on "Role of SMEs in Defence and Aerospace", organised by SIATI in association with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (AVV), Mr Nair said the country was marching



Air Marshal Khajuria at the conference. — DC

towards self-reliance in the aerospace and defence sectors with contribution from SMEs in the manufacturing of aerospace components and other equipment.

He pointed out that the contribution from India for Liaison aircraft was about 65 to 70 per cent. "We are trying to reach about 75 per cent utilisation of indigenous components in Light Combat

Aircraft (LCA) and advanced helicopters," he said and added that indigenous products would reduce the cost by about 50 per cent or 40 per cent compared to the cost overseas.

"The centralised facilities should be certified by defence organisation, so that quality is maintained. The SMEs can use the facility for testing their products manufactured for aerospace industry," he said.

The SMEs here would play a bigger role in providing spare parts for defence as the aircraft would be maintained for a longer time. The country could not depend on overseas companies, because the spare parts might become outdated and they might stop productions, he added.