

RafaleM, Scorpene techno-commercial negotiations not over

The negotiations on cost and techno-commercial details relating to India's proposed procurement of 26 RafaleM fighter jets and three Scorpene submarines from France are not yet concluded, sources said on Tuesday.

The Defence Acquisition Council, the defence ministry's apex body for military procurement, approved the proposals to acquire the naval variant of the Rafale jets and the submarines on July 13.

There was anticipation of formal announcements on

the two deals during PM Narendra Modi's visit. However, there was no specific mention of the two procurement projects in the final joint document.

The sources said too much should not be read into the two projects not finding a mention in a 25-year road map brought out by the two sides. "You shouldn't read too much into it," said a source, adding the final deals will be sealed after conclusion of negotiations on cost and techno-commercial aspects. **PTI**