

Seventeenth Loksabha

>

Title: Need to restart the production at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Kasargod in Kerala.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited made its presence in Kerala with the opening of its Strategic Electronics Factory at Seethangoli in Kasaragod district of Kerala in 2008. The then Defence Minister, Shri A.K. Antony had said that work on the second phase of strategic electronics factory would begin soon.

He had said that officials had been told to speed up the work on the second phase. It was envisaged to help in the production of avionics systems for Sukhoi as well as Jaguar aircraft.

The then Secretary (Defence Production) had said that the country was working towards meeting 70 per cent of defence needs indigenously. There is a need to enhance technological facilities in this direction. For this, a large number of new technological platforms are required. The HAL's factory in Kerala was planned as an important step in this regard. The production of special purpose airborne computers like mission computer, display processor, radar computer and open systems architecture and mission computer for the Su-30, LCA and MiG-27 upgrade was being taken up at this factory.

Kasaragod was short-listed on the availability of adequate land, power, water and better logistics facilities. The Kerala Government has allotted 196 acres for setting up the unit.

Seven buildings are dedicated to activities like production, administration, technical services, materials management, security and for Government agencies. But the Strategic Electronics Factory of HAL at Seethangoli in Kasaragod district is remaining idle for the time being and no production activity is going on there. So, urgent necessary steps may be taken to restart the production at the factory and make optimum utilisation of the physical infrastructure of the factory at Kasaragod. Thank you very much.