

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4972
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
PRODUCTION OF PILOTLESS TARGET AIRCRAFT
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for delay in bulk production of Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) by HAL;
- (b) the time by which the production is likely to be started; and
- (c) the status of the indigenous development of block casting for turbine disk?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) & (b): There was delay in the development stage of the engine of Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) due to irregular and unreliable supplies of investment castings which were imported from foreign vendors. These castings were, therefore, taken up for indigenisation by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with the help of Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratories (DMRL), which took some time.

For Series production of PTA, price negotiations with customers have been completed by HAL. The deliveries of PTA will commence within 14 months after placement of orders by the customers.

(c) Indigenous development of turbine rotor and stator castings (Integral with blades) for Pilotless Target Aircraft Engine (PTAE-7) have been taken up through DMRL, Hyderabad. Turbine rotor castings have already been developed by DMRL and successfully used in flight trials of PTAE-7. Development of turbine stator castings is progressing and is expected to be supplied by DMRL by June, 2003.