

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1500

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REVAMPING OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the strength and achievements of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in meeting the demand of the Armed Forces;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to revamp the DRDO;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose; and
- (e) if so, its composition and terms of reference thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) DRDO is working for providing state-of-the-art systems and products for the Armed Forces. DRDO has established core strength in a number of engineering disciplines encompassing the following:

Strategic Systems and Missiles - including Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Nag, etc.

Avionics and Aero Systems - including light combat aircraft, Tejas and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, etc.

Naval Systems - including the supersonic cruise missile Brahmos, sonars and torpedoes, etc.

Electronic Systems - including state-of-the-art Electronic warfare and signal intelligence equipment, etc.

Land Systems - including battle tanks, amphibious armoured vehicles, engineering reccee vehicles, ammunitions, etc.

Life Support Systems - including NBC detection, defensive and protective gear, high altitude rations, high altitude agro-technology, etc.

The approximate value of production orders placed for DRDO developed systems, which are to be used by the Armed Forces, amounts to over Rs.30,000 crore over the last 10 years.

(b) to (e): In the light of recommendations of the "Report of the Committee on Review of Defence Procurement Procedure to integrate Users, Ministry of Defence and the Industry", (April 2005, Kelkar Committee Report), a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. P Rama Rao with seven members - four superannuated officers and one each from the three Services and from defence finance, and one each from industry, Public Sector Units (PSUs), and Academic institutions.

The terms of reference of the Committee are to:

Modernize administrative, personnel and financial systems to achieve speedier implementation of projects.

Develop synergistic cooperation with sister R&D agencies, such as DAE/DOS/DOD/CSIR and academia to keep pace with advances in science and technology and to ensure immunity against denial regimes.

Attract and retain high quality manpower by various measures including offering incentives and providing opportunities for DRDO

scientists to acquire higher degrees in India and military R&D experience abroad.

Ensure that technical specifications of Staff requirements are consistent with the national scientific and technical knowledge base, and experience with fielded imported systems.

Maximize technological appreciation and knowledge-acquisition from user trials, test & evaluation and in service use of imported equipment and stores.

Maximize utilization of private industry (particularly technocrat-entrepreneur owned) not only for system/sub-system development but also for development of enabling technology, design and proof-of-concept research.

Utilize the expertise of selected NRIs and foreign consultants, particularly those with experience in military-related R&D; explore opportunities of collaborative efforts with foreign academic and R&D institutions and military industries in the environment of liberalized economy.

Recommend measures to ensure that a certain percentage in value of acquisition is directed towards ongoing and futuristic efforts to indigenously build industrial capability in the country.