

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5413
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
ARJUN BATTLE TANK
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether manufacture of Arjun battle tank was cleared in 1974 at a cost of Rs.15.5 crore and has since escalated to Rs.306 crore;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the manufacture of the tank and the steps taken to expedite its manufacture; and
- (c) the details of the problems with the tank that have been brought to notice and remedial action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. In its meeting held on 26.3.1974 the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved project for design and development of Main Battle Tank with an outlay of Rs.15.50 crores. The same was enhanced to Rs.305.60 crores due to changes in the General Staff Qualitative Requirements and cost escalations caused by inflation.

(b) There has been some delay in issue of tanks to Army due to design modifications and removal of defects noticed during various trials by Army. The manufacture of Arjun tank is being regularly monitored through Working Group headed by Director General Mechanised Forces and Steering Committee under the Co-chairmanship of Secretary (Defence Production) and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri.

(c) Following defects have been noticed during the ongoing Accelerated User Cum Reliability Trials by Army:-

(i) Failure of power packs

(ii) Low accuracy and consistency

(iii) Failure of Hydropneumatic Suspension Units

(iv) Shearing of Top Rollers

(v) Chipping of Gun Barrels.

The rectification of defects and performance of tanks are being closely monitored.