

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3337

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DRDO PRODUCTS

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of projects of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) are lagging behind from its schedule;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to recruit new scientists in order to complete these projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the ratio of scientists in DRDO at present; and
- (f) the other steps being taken by the Government to complete DRDO projects in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Some of the major projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which are lagging behind schedule are given below:-

Project Probable Date of Completion (PDC)

Original Revised

Light Combat Aircraft December 2008 December 2012#
(LCA), Phase-II

Naval Light Combat March 2010 December 2014
Aircraft (LCA, Navy)
Phase-I

Aero-engine Kaveri December 1996
December 2009#

Airborne Early Warning October 2011 March 2014
& Control (AEW&C) System

PDC is likely to be extended upto March 2015.

PDC has been extended within the sanctioned cost and scope.

The following are some of the reasons for delay in completion of the above projects:-

(i) Ab-initio development of the state-of-the-art technologies.

(ii) Non-availability of trained / skilled manpower.

(iii) Non-availability of infrastructure / test facilities in the country.

(iv) Technical / technological complexities.

(v) Non-availability of critical components / equipment / materials and denial of technologies by the technologically advanced countries.

(vi) Enhanced User's requirements or change in specifications during development.

(vii) Increase in the scope of work.

(viii) Extended / long-drawn user trials.

(ix) Failure of some of the components during testing / trials.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. However, scientists are being recruited regularly through Direct Advertisement, Campus Recruitments from IITs, IISc & NITs, Registration of Students with Scholastic Aptitude (ROSSA) Scheme, Non Resident Indians (NRIs) Scheme, Lateral Entry Scheme, etc. as per the requirements of the ongoing and futuristic projects.

(e) The ratio of scientists to the total strength of manpower of DRDO is approximately 1:3.

(f) The following steps have been taken by the DRDO to complete the ongoing projects in time:-

(i) Consortium approach is being used for design, development and fabrication of critical components.

(ii) Three-tier project monitoring approach has been instituted in the major projects / programmes.

(iii) Project Monitoring Review Committee (PMRC) and Project Appraisal and Review Committee (PARC) meetings are held regularly to monitor the progress of ongoing projects / programmes.

(iv) Concurrent engineering approach has been adopted in technology intensive projects to minimize time-lag between development and productionisation of the systems.

(v) Information Technology and modern management techniques are being applied.

(vi) Encouraging joint funding by users to ensure their commitment towards earliest completion.

(vii) Promoting synergy and better co-ordination among User Services, DRDO and production agencies through cluster meetings.