

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4574
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
DRDO PROJECTS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been stepping up its Drone / Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the development of Rustom-I and II drones?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. After successful development of Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA), Lakshya; Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Nishant; Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV Rustom-I; and various mini and micro UAVs, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has stepped up for development of the following UAVs:

Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV-Rustom-II.

High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAV.

Rotary Wing UAV.

High Speed Expendable Aerial Target.

(c) The present status of Rustom-I and II projects are given below:-

Rustom-1: Major objectives, like taxi take off and landing, endurance and altitude of this Technology Demonstrator have been accomplished through a total of 26 flights conducted so far. Further flights are planned to evaluate its payload capabilities.

Rustom-2: The project is progressing as per schedule with active participation of the Users. Preliminary Design Reviews and most of the Critical Design Reviews have been completed. Its first flight is likely to be commenced during mid-2014.