

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1662
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
DRDO PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) projects are lagging behind the schedule;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, project-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to recruit more scientists to complete such projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the ratio of scientists in DRDO at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The following are major ongoing projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lagging behind schedule:

Project	Probable Date of Completion (PDC)	
	Original	Revised
Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Phase-II	December 2008	December 2015
Naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA, Navy) Phase-I	March 2010	December 2014
Aero-engine Kaveri	December 1996	December 2009#
Airborne Warning & Control (AEW&C) System	October 2011	March 2014
Long Range Surface - to - Air Missile (LR-SAM)	May 2011	December 2015
Air-to-Air Missile Astra	August 2012	December 2016

PDC has been further 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 infrastructure / test facilities in the country.
- (iii) Technical / technological complexities.
- (iv) Non-availability of critical components / equipment / materials and denial of technologies by the technologically advanced countries.
- (v) Enhanced User's requirements or change in specifications during development.
- (vi) Increase in the scope of work.
- (vii) Extended / long-drawn user trials.

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

(c) & (d): Delay in Completion of above projects are not due to lack of manpower. Therefore, question of recruitment of more scientists does not arise for this purpose. 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.