

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 21.04.2010

ANSWERED ON

DELAY IN SUPPLY OF AJTS BY HAL .

2786

Smt. Mohsina Kidwai

Will the Minister of COALDEFENCE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has expressed its inability to meet the delivery schedules of the Advanced Jet Trainer and has thus delayed the Indian Air Force's fighter pilot training programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Air Force is facing acute shortage of trained pilots and in the absence of delivery of AJTs by HAL, it is directly affecting the performance of Air Force; and
- (d) if so, the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

ANSWER

(SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): Delivery of 42 (Hawk-AJT) aircraft was scheduled from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 in a phased manner. 3 aircraft were to be built from semi-knocked down (SKD) kits, 3 from completely knocked down (CKD) kits and 36 from raw material phase. The CKD and SKD kits were assembled on schedule. When production in raw material phase was taken up, it was found that the equipment supplied by the OEM had various shortcomings. The assembly jigs that were supplied did not meet the requirements, there was mismatch in the kits/components supplied, there were defects in major assemblies like the wing spar etc. These problems took time to overcome and hence affected the production schedule at HAL.

HAL has manufactured 12 aircraft till now, 3 in the year 2008-2009 and 9 in the year 2009-2010, including the first aircraft from raw material phase.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. IAF is meeting its requirement by utilizing the existing resources for training of pilots.