

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4692
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th March, 2025

DELAY IN DRDO PROJECTS

4692. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:
SMT. SANJNA JATAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the country's premier defence research agency Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been plagued by systemic problems that have consistently resulted in inordinate delays and cost overruns;
- (b) if so, the details of the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the DRDO has shifted its focus away from defence research and over-extending itself into other areas by taking up too many projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) to (d): In view of complexities and high uncertainties involved in the research & development of State-of-the-Art defence technologies, estimating exact time and cost for the completion of any defence R&D Project is a continuous process. The Areas of research are identified based on Long Term Technology Perspective Plan (LTTPP), Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP), DRDO Five Years Plan (FYP), Vision Document and Roadmap.

In addition following new initiatives have been taken: -

- DRDO has identified specific areas of technology development that it has transferred to the industry and DRDO is not undertaking projects in those areas.
- Mission Mode Projects are taken only after Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) or Defence Procurement Board (DPB) or Services Procurement Board (SPB).
- DRDO is committed to support the Indian Defence industry, emphasizing that it is not duplicating efforts undertaken by the private sector. With the Mission: 'What Industry can do, DRDO will not do', DRDO primarily concentrate on the design and development of critical and advanced technologies as well as complex systems which industry does not do due to high risk or high cost.

- DRDO has a 10 years roadmap which is reviewed and revised to ensure that projects are taken from focus areas and are based on resources available.
- DRDO-Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoE) are providing support to DRDO labs and industry to carry out directed research in critical and futuristic areas related to Defence applications.
- DRDO has undertaken a comprehensive revamp of its procedures and processes in its policy documents i.e. Delegation of Financial Powers, Procurement Manual and Directives for Project Formulation and Management. These are revised, making it simpler for faster decision making along with decentralization. This leads to improvement and enhancement in overall efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.
