

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006

ARJUN TANK

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Arjun, main-battle tank is not ready even after 32 years of development work as reported in The Times of India, dated August 08, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the DRDO has offered another "experimental" tank ("Tank-Ex") to the Army for user evaluation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the DRDO to make user-friendly weapons indigenously?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) & (b): The Arjun, Main Battle Tank is ready. The project "Main Battle Tank, Arjun" was sanctioned in May 1974. General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) was finalized in October 1985 and project was completed in March 1995. The indent for 124 tanks was placed by users in March 2000. These are currently under production at Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Tank-Ex has been built by DRDO to demonstrate a possible method to upgrade T-72 tanks, with a modular turret as a proactive step.
- (e) DRDO is involved in development of weapons and platforms as per the requirements of the users. To make the weapons user-friendly, users are involved in the project right from the developmental stage.