

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) have designed and produced Kiran, Marut and Ajeet basic jet trainer aircraft.

(c) and (d) After evaluation of available options, the Government have short-listed Alphajet of Dassault Aviation (France) and Hawk of British Aerospace (UK) for possible acquisition as advanced jet trainer.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose any further details in this regard.

[*Translation*]

**Explosion in Ordinance Depot, Lalgarh**

274. SHRI JANARDAN  
MISRA:

SHRI ARVIND  
TRIVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether there was an explosion in the Army Ordinance depot at Lalgarh in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of persons died or suffered injuries therein;

(c) whether the causes of this explosion have been found out;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the assistance provided to the families of deceased as well as injured persons in this explosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In this explosion 5 persons died and 11 persons received injuries.

(c) and (d) A staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered to pinpoint the cause of the explosion.

(e) The following assistance is being provided:—

(i) Family of each deceased has been given an *ex-gratia* grant of Rs. 11,500/- by Army authorities.

(ii) Grants have also been sanctioned by the State Govt. to the deceased and injured.

(iii) All possible medical aid and assistance is being provided to the injured at the Military Hospital.

(iv) Action has also been initiated for payment of benefits like insurance, death-cum retirement gratuity, family pension etc. to the family member(s) of the deceased Government employees.

**Industrial Growth**

276. SHRI GUMAN MAL  
LODHA:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: