

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2845
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
WESTLAND HELICOPTERS SOLD BACK TO BRITAIN
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India sold back to Britain the Westland helicopters purchased in 1996 because of their unsuitability for Indian conditions;
- (b) if so, the number of helicopters purchased by India and resold to Britain now; and
- (c) the price of helicopters paid by India and the price of resold helicopters received by India now?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): A total of 21 Westland helicopters, along with associated equipment, were acquired during September, 1986 to February, 1988 under Overseas Development Administration grant of government of United Kingdom for Pounds Sterling 70 million. One Westland helicopter crashed in 1988 and another helicopter met with a serious accident in 1989. Since Westland Helicopters were found unsafe for operations and economically unviable, these helicopters were grounded, permanently, in February, 1991. 19 helicopters were sold back to UK.

(c) The helicopters were procured at the cost of Pounds Sterling 70 million, whereas a sale award of 19 helicopters (including one damaged) is given to M/s AES Aerospace, UK at the cost of Pounds Sterling 9 million. The first shipment of the helicopters/spares has been sent to UK and Pounds Sterling 4.5 million have been received in respect of first shipment and deposited in Government of India Treasury. Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd., is taking steps to complete the transaction/formalities for the shipment of second consignment and to obtain the remaining amount of Pounds Sterling 4.5 million.