GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:808
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
AEROPLANES CRASH
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY;MOHAN RAWALE;PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL;SHYAMA SINGH;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fighter planes, helicopters and transport aircraft crashed during 2001 till date, category-wise, incident- wise;

(b) the details of the origin of these aircraft and helicopters;

(c) the value of public/private property lost and the number of pilots killed in these accidents and compensation paid in each case;

(d) the outcome of each of the inquiry conducted and action taken thereon during the said period;

(e) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "MIGs have design flaws say former Air Force Chiefs" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 22, 2001;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon alongwith likely impact on further purchase; and

(g) the steps taken to check abnormal rise in accidents particularly involving MIG fighters and to upgrade and manufacture these planes indigenously?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The details of the number of fighter planes, helicopters and transport aircraft crashed during 2001 till 18 November, 2001, category- wise, incident-wise, origin-wise is annexed.

(c) A n amount of Rs. 117.44 crores has been lost a s service property and Rs. 1.36 crores have been paid to civilians as compensation in 18 out of 20 cases, finalised till date. Nine pilots have been killed in 20 cases of accidents occurred till date this year. Compensation for the pilots killed has been paid according to the rules.

(d) The Courts of Inquiry have identified human error (aircrew), bird hit and technical defects as the main causes of these accidents. Remedial measures are instituted after each Court of Inquiry, based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry.

Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve situational awareness are constantly being reviewed and implemented. Renewed thrust on acquiring simulators and trainer aircraft is also underway towards improving the quality of the man behind the machine.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) In the life cycle of any fighter aircraft, modifications/up- gradations are ongoing processes to keep the weapon platform technologically relevant. The air-worthiness of MiG-21s, has been ensured through periodic overhaul. There has never been any doubt on the air-worthiness of MiG-21 fleet.

(g) The main causes of accidents in the Indian Air Force involving the MiG-21 aircraft have been identified as Human Error (Aircrew) [HE(A)] , Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH)Measures are being taken to reduce accidents on a continuous basis in order to bring down the accident rates under all categories by formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hazard control, conduct of studies on HE and TDs and interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited / Original Equipment Manufacturers. A total of 125 MIG- 21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for up-gradation.Out of these, two have already been upgraded in Russia during the design and development phase, which has been completed recently. It has been planned that the remaining aircraft will be upgraded at HAL, Nasik.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY GIVEN IN PARTS (a)&(b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 808 FO 22.11.2001

Type of aircraft	Origin	HE(A)	TD	BH	Total

Type	Origin						
MiG-21	Russian	04	04		01		09
MiG-23	Russian	02		01			03
MiG-27	Russian	-		01		01	
MiG-29	Russian	01		-		01	
Jaguar	British	01		-		01	
Mi-8	Russian	02		01			03
Mi-17	Russian	02		-			02
Total		-	07	20	12	01	

HE(A) - Human Error (Aircrew) TD - Technical Defect BH - Bird Hit