

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3815
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
GROUNDING OF MIG AIRCRAFT
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to frequent air crash of MiG-21 trainer aircraft the Government propose to ground all the Trainer aircrafts for indepth inspection to establish its air-worthiness;
- (b) whether in the absence of user friendly advanced Jet Trainers for transitional training, Air Force is forced to use second generation aged MiG-21 twin seater trainers;
- (c) whether these single engined ageing MiG-21 with several design limitations are highly forgiving to errors advanced Jaguars, MiG-29 or Sukhois;
- (d) if so, whether the Government are considering to discard these ageing MiG-21 twin seater trainer aircraft to save precious lives; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) No, Sir. Airworthiness of all aircraft is checked at scheduled intervals.
- (b) & (c) : The MiG-21 trainers used by Indian Air Force in lieu of Advanced Jet Trainers are more demanding than other aircraft.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) The MiG-21 trainers are used for operational conversion during training and are certified fully airworthy.