

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:39  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005  
CRASH OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Sarvey Shri Sathanarayana

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of unmanned aerial vehicles crashed during each of the last three years, till date;
- (b) the number of persons killed/injured if any, and the quantum of financial loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;
- (c) whether inquiries have been conducted into each crash;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to avert such accidents in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR 24.11.2005

A total number of 5 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) of the Defence Forces have crashed during the last three years, till date. Out of these 5 UAVs, 2 UAVs were of the Indian Air Force, while the remaining 3 UAVs were of the Indian Army. The details of the accidents alongwith the cause (as per finding of the Court of Inquiry), number of person killed/injured and the financial loss is Annexed.

A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade the safety of the UAVs. A Court of Inquiry is ordered to investigate the cause of the accident and to suggest remedial measures. Measures to enhance the quality of training are being pursued. Constant interaction with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) are held on all maintenance issues. Operating Procedures are continuously updated/improved to enhance flight safety aspects of UAVs.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT GIVEN IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR 24.11.2005

**(A) AIR FORCE:**

Sl No.	Year	No. of UAVs crashed	No. of persons killed/Injured	No. of crash	Cause of the	Financial loss
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1. 2002-2003 Nil Nil Nil Nil

2. 2003-2004 1 1 person injured (Aircrew) 1 person Property - Rs. 24,530 Human Error UAV - Rs. 5.33crores

3. 2004-2005 Nil Nil Nil Nil

4. 2005-2006 (till date) progress 1 iry(CoI) is in progress Nil Court of Inqu- Will be ascertained once CoI is finalized.

**(B) ARMY:**

SlNo.	Year	No. of	No. of	Cause of the	Financial loss
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UAVs persons crash  
crashed (Killed/  
Injured)

- |                             |     |     |                 |                    |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. 2002-2003                | 1   | Nil | Engine failure  | Rs. 6.80 crores    |
| 2. 2003-2004                | Nil | Nil | Nil             | Nil                |
| 3. 2004-2005                | 2   | Nil | The crashes     | The Original       |
|                             |     |     | have occurred   | Equipment          |
|                             |     |     | due to system   | Manufacturer (OEM) |
|                             |     |     | failure. have   | agreed to          |
|                             |     |     | repair the UAVs |                    |
|                             |     |     | free of cost.   |                    |
| 4. 2005-2006<br>(till date) | Nil | Nil | Nil             | Nil                |

(C) NAVY: No Naval UAV crashed till date.