

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1236

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006

AIR- WORTHINESS OF JAGUARS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between the Indian Air Force and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited over the air-worthiness and tardy serviceability of Jaguar deep-penetration strike fighters as reported in The Times of India dated June 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of Jaguar aircraft crashed during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make Jaguars more air-worthy?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): HAL and IAF work very closely to address serviceability and maintenance issues of Jaguar fleet. Constant efforts are made by both IAF and HAL to improve the serviceability of the Jaguar fleet and also to tackle the numerous issues concerning upgrades.

(c) The number of Jaguar aircraft that have crashed in the past three financial years and till date in the current year are as follows:-

Financial Year	Number of Jaguar Aircraft crashed
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2003-2004	02
2004-2005	03
2005-2006	02
2006-2007	Nil
(till 29.7.2006)	

(d) The Jaguar aircraft supplied by HAL to the IAF are fully air-worthy. They are supplied to the IAF after exhaustive ground and in-flight testing by experienced test pilots. No aircraft in the IAF is flown unless it is certified as fully air-worthy. IAF is constantly striving to achieve a reduction in accident rate across all fleets as an on-going process. In the case of the Jaguar, a joint quality audit of IAF bases and HAL divisions on maintenance issues and inspection of Jaguar bases to review operational and maintenance procedures has also been carried out.