

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:43

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005

CRASH OF AIRCRAFT

Gao Shri Tapir;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of fighter aircraft and helicopters crashed from November, 2004 onwards till date, date-wise and place-wise;
- (b) the loss of lives and properties as a result thereof;
- (c) the amount of compensation paid to the deceased family/affected civilians;
- (d) whether each accident has been investigated;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (f) whether any inbuilt technical fault has been found in MiG-21 aircraft; and
- (g) if so, the reasons for not phasing out MiG-21 aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 43 FOR 3.3.2005

The Defence Forces have lost four fighter aircraft and three helicopters in the crashes since 1st November, 2004. The date and place-wise details are as follows:-

Date	Service	Place	Type of aircraft
1.	1.11.2004	Air Force	Nal (Rajasthan) MiG-21 (Fighter)
2.	5.11.2004	Air Force	Bareilly (U.P.) MiG-27 (Fighter)
3.	9.11.2004	Air Force	Gwalior (M.P.) Mirage-2000 (Fighter)
4.	30.12.2004	Air Force	Bagdogra (West Bengal) Cheetah (Helicopter)
5.	4.1.2005	Air Force	Nal (Rajasthan) MiG-21 (Fighter)
6.	1.2.2005	Air Force	Jamnagar (Gujarat) Chetak (Helicopter)
7	18.2.2005	Army	Siachen (J&K) Cheetah (Helicopter)

The Defence Forces have lost one pilot in the accident at Gwalior that took place on 9th November, 2004. However, there was no casualty/damage either to any civilian or any civilian property in any of these accidents.

A sum of Rupees Five Lakhs has already been sanctioned as Ex- Gratia to the family of the deceased Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot. Other compensation/benefits are being processed as per existing rules.

Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry. Of these seven accidents, two were due to Human Error, while in the remaining five cases the Court of Inquiry is still under progress.

All accidents, including those involving MiG-21 aircraft, have been investigated thoroughly. However, no in-built technical fault has been found. Therefore, the question of premature phasing out of this aircraft from the IAF fighter inventory does not arise, at present. However, MiG-21 aircraft will be phased out in a planned manner by the year 2017.