

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2966

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

CRASH INCIDENTS IN AIR FORCE

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Hooda Shri Deepender Singh;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Natrajan Meenakshi;Pratapsinhmaharaj Shri Bhonsle Shrimant Chh. Udganraje;Singh Shri Jitender

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

- (a) the details of the various types of fighter aircraft, especially MiG-21 series aircraft and helicopters of Indian Air Force crashed during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of the loss of lives including the pilots/personnel and property alongwith the compensation paid by the Government in each of the cases;
- (c) the reasons for each of the crash incidents as found by the inquiry and the remedial measures being taken to check recurrence of such incidents;
- (d) whether the inexperience of pilots has been stated to be one of the major reasons for the crash incidents as reported recently;
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the flying skills of the pilots and induct more number of Advanced Jet Trainers for the purpose;
- (f) whether the Government has set up any Committee to review the reasons for such crashes and if so, the details thereof; and (g) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the services of MiG-21 aircraft and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) During the last three years (2008-09 to 2010-11) and current year 2011-12 (upto 03.12.2011) 30 fighter aircrafts (including 16 MiG-21 series) and 10 helicopters of Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed.
- (b) In the above accidents 26 defence personnel including 13 pilots have lost their lives. In addition 06 civilians have also lost their lives. Compensation for loss of lives and properties are paid as per extant Government orders/instructions.
- (c) Main causes for the above accidents were Human Error (HE) and Technical Defect (TD). Every IAF aircraft accident is thoroughly investigated by a Court of Inquiry (CoI) to ascertain the cause of accident and remedial measures are taken accordingly to check their recurrence in future.
- (d) & (e): The inexperience of pilots is not one of the major reasons for aircraft accidents in the IAF. Nevertheless, steps have been taken by the Government to train pilots to prevent accidents due to human error. These include increased use of simulators to practice procedures and emergency actions, focused and realistic training with additional emphasis on the critical aspects of mission, introduction of Crew Resource Management and Operational Risk Management to enable safe mission launches, Aviation Psychology courses and introduction of Aerospace Safety capsules in the ab-initio training of aircrew.
- (f) A multi-disciplined study team has been formed by the IAF.
- (g) Decision to phase out aircrafts are taken based on various factors including residual life of the aircraft and operational considerations and is reviewed by the Government from time to time. This is a continuous process.