

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:884

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

CRASHES OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Meghwal Shri Bharat Ram;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various types of fighter aircraft including Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 and MiG-series aircraft including MiG-21 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 in each of the incident;
- (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;
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the flying skills of the pilots indicating the flying hours being provided to them at present; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the services of MiG series aircraft including MiG-21 as they have outlived their service life 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 13.3.2012) 33 fighter aircrafts which includes 01 Jaguar, 02 Mirage-2000, 03 Sukhoi-30 and 27 MIG series aircraft (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.

(c) Majority of the above accidents were on account of 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. Remedial measures are taken accordingly to check their recurrence in future.

(d) & (e): No, Madam. However, improvement of skills of pilots is a continuous process. Several steps have been taken by the Government in this regard. 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) 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.