

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:633  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
SEA HARRIER AIRCRAFT IN NAVY  
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) whether most of the Sea Harrier aircraft of the Navy have either crashed or have been rendered ineffective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the aircraft had high rate of accidents due to material failure and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether MiG 29K aircraft is not able to operate from the INS Viraat and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen the air combat capability of the Navy?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) to (c): 15 Sea Harriers fighters and 3 trainers have been lost in accidents since 1983. Only 3 aircraft accidents out of these have been attributed to material failure.
- (d) MiG 29K cannot be operated from INS Viraat since it employs the Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) technique whereas INS Viraat is a Short Take Off Vertical Landing (STOVL) facility carrier.
- (e) Strengthening of air combat capability of the Navy is an ongoing process through upgradation of the existing Naval Assets and acquisition of additional assets.