

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:668  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
PURCHASE OF TRAINER AIRCRAFT  
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has cleared the purchase of 75 basic trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this was necessitated because the HPT-32 Deepak has been involved in at least 17 crashes killing 19 pilots forcing the Air Force to ground the fleet in 2009; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A contract for procurement of 75 Basic Trainer Aircraft was signed with M/s Pilatus Aircraft Ltd., Switzerland on 24th May 2012 at a cost of Rs. 2895.63 Crore.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The HPT-32 was the basic trainer aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF) till July 2009. The HPT-32 aircraft had persistent problems of engine cuts. The aircraft was grounded due to safety reasons on 31st July, 2009 after a fatal accident due to engine cut.