

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3821

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012

CHETAK HELICOPTER CRASH

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Patil Shri C. R. ;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of regular crashing of Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft like the crash of chetak helicopters and Su-30 aircraft;
- (b) if so, whether these are due to inexperienced and ill trained pilots;
- (c) whether a board of inquiry has been ordered into these crashes and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether his Ministry has recently issued a tender for procurement of 56 twin-engine light utility helicopters from foreign vendors and some aircraft like Su-30 had been put to upgradation programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Air accidents are due to several reasons. Human error is one of them. Inexperience of pilots is not a major reason for aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force (IAF). IAF has a comprehensive training programme including simulator based training. Steps to improve training of pilots based upon findings of Courts of Inquiry have been taken to prevent accidents due to human error.

(c) Every accident / incident is followed by Court of Inquiry (CoI) and recommendations of all the completed Court of Inquiry are implemented.

(d) & (e): A tender has been issued to procure 56 twin engine light utility helicopters by the Navy as replacement of Chetak and Medium Range Torpedo Carrying Helicopters (MATCH). Upgradation of aircraft is a continuous process based upon operational requirements. No upgradation programme for Su-30 aircraft is currently planned.