

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:829

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

DHRUVA HELICOPTERS

Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

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

- (a) whether Ecuador has banned the flying of Dhruva Helicopters which were purchased from India after the two accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry to know the shortcomings in the Dhruva Helicopters;
- (d) if so, the details and findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to rectify shortcomings in these helicopters and make them as per international standards?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): Pending findings of Court of Inquiry set up by Ministry of Defence, Ecuador, consisting of representatives from Ecuadorian Army and Navy into the cause of the two recent accidents of Dhruva, Ecuador Air Force has suspended flying their Dhruva Helicopters. A High Level Delegation from HAL has visited Ecuador and offered support.

(c) to (e): Customer constitutes a Court of Inquiry to enquire into any accidents in military aircraft. Indian Air Force had constituted court of inquiries into all the three accidents of Dhruv helicopters. Based on the first court of inquiry into the accident of February, 2007 and the second accident in October, 2011 a Control Saturation Warning System has been developed which is progressively being fitted into the helicopters. The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv is certified to International Standard as per DEF-STAN 00-0970 and nearly 200 Dhruv helicopters have been produced till date and are being operated by military and civil operators in India and abroad.