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Title: Regarding the Missing of Air Force Plane AN-32 and technical life of this Plane.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving this opportunity to raise a very sad instance in this august House in which 29 Defence persons have perished in the Bay of Bengal.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter was already raised yesterday. Please be brief.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Two of these Defence personnel as reported are Shri I.P. Vimal from Kakkody and Shri Sanjeev Kumar from Kakkur village which belong to my constituency. I had paid a visit to their family also. Today is the fifth day since the mishap and hunt for this IAF aircraft is still going on. I appreciate the hon. Minister of Defence who was personally in Chennai, supervising the search and rescue operation. It is a very important thing. As reported, the twin-engine 25-year old AN-32 transport aircraft took off from Tambaram to traverse a journey of 1200 nautical miles to Port Blair at 8:30 am. Sixteen minutes later, the flight went missing. Against the 100-odd aircrafts of IAF, at least 10 aircrafts have met fatal accidents since its induction in 1976.

In this course, I would like to raise a very important question. What is the total technical life of this AN-32 aircraft? My understanding is that the life of this aircraft is only 25 years. Is Defence operating expired aircrafts? I would like to ask the Government of India what clarification they have in this regard.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.K. Raghavan.