

*[English]***Vikrant Museum Plan**

3366. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to preserve the war-ship 'INS Vikrant' as a museum of naval memorabilia;

(b) whether the efforts are also being made to dispose it off to junk dealers through auction; and

(c) if so, the details of the final decision of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for conversion of INS Vikrant into a maritime museum. This is under consideration of the Central Government.

Crash of MIG-29 in Rajasthan

3367. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Air Force Fighter Plane (MIG-29) crashed near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on June 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of civilians and soldiers killed and injured alongwith the extent of loss of property therein;

(d) the compensation paid to each of the victims;

(e) whether any inquiry has been made to investigate the cause of the accident; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) On June 4, 1998 no IAF MIG-29 crashed near Jaisalmer. However, on this date, a MIG-21 aircraft crashed near Jaisalmer when an IAF Pilot was authorised to fly as No. 2 in a 4 aircraft practice over Pokhran Range. While the Pilot was carrying out the third circuit, a huge ball of flame was seen in the attack direction by the other members which was later identified as No.2.

No other civilians/soldiers were killed/injured except the pilot. There was no loss to civil property.

Necessary action to grant Ex-gratia award and other death benefits to the next of the kin has been imitated.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, the Court of Inquiry has been unable to conclusively establish the cause of the accident due to lack of evidence as the aircraft was completely destroyed after crash.

*[Translation]***Fraudulent Recruitment in Armed Forces**

3368. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fraudulent recruitments reported to have been made in Armed Forces through a racket in convenience with some Army Officers at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has since been conducted in regard thereto; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken to check such immoral acts in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Some News items had appeared in newspapers 27.4.1998 at Lucknow regarding arrest of seven persons in connection with alleged recruitment racket. Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Level Crossings in the Country**

3369. SHRI BHARATHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country separately, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of railway accidents that have occurred during the last three years at such level crossings, State-wise;

(c) whether many of these accidents have occurred due to the unmanned level crossings;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up any more manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and zone-wise ?