

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:64  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003  
CRASH OF MIG SERIES AIRCRAFT  
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;V.M. SUDHEERAN

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

- (a) the number of MIG series aircraft crashed during each of the last six months and loss of life and property suffered in each crash alongwith the compensation paid to the victims or next of their kins;
- (b) the recommendations and the outcome of the enquiries conducted in each accident and action taken thereon;
- (c) the reasons behind the high number of crashes; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of crashes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR 24.7.2003

A total number of 05 (five) Category-I aircraft accidents involving MiG aircraft occurred during the last six months (from 1st January, 2003 to 20th July, 2003). Courts of Inquiry have been set up to investigate the causes of these accidents and are still in progress. The details of losses of lives and property suffered and compensation paid to the victims in these crashes are as under:-

Date/Month of the year 2003	Category of aircraft	Pilots killed	Civilians killed	Civilians injured	Loss of property & Compensation paid to the victims
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January	Nil	The Courts of Inquiry are assessing the loss of property. The amount of compensation will be paid to the victims as per existing rules.		
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February	Nil			
March	Nil			
04th April	MiG-23	07#		
07th April	MiG-21	06##		
May	Nil			
04th June	MiG-21	01###		
07th July	MiG-23			
14th July	MiG-21	02###		

- # - Rs. 40,000/- paid as interim relief to the next of kins of deceased in each case.
- ## - Compensation claims for injuries from affected civilians were not received as they had sustained only minor injuries. However, 11 civilians submitted applications for compensation for damage to their properties. Out of these 11, 9 have already been paid compensation amounting to Rs. 1,92,500/-. Two claims are pending for want of assessment report from the Civil authorities.
- ### - Compensation to the next of the kin of the pilots are being given as per the existing rules.

Military aviation does have a certain amount of inherent risks. The major causes of accidents are Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH). However, as a result of the efforts made by the Government the number of Category-I accidents on MiG series aircraft have come down from 10 to 05 in comparison to the same period last year.

Every effort is taken to reduce accidents and improve flight safety. This is an ongoing process. Measures to enhance quality of training

to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) at the highest level is being maintained with a view to reduce accidents. DRDO and other technical agencies are also being involved in all accident investigations to form a wider perspective to prevent accidents. Measures to reduce accidents on account of bird menace are also being implemented.