

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:991
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
CRASH OF HELICOPTERS
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a helicopter belonging to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) recently crashed off Mumbai High resulting in the death of a number of persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of choppers that have crashed since 2000 alongwith the names of the operators of these choppers;
- (d) whether the post of Flight Operations Inspector supposed to monitor all helicopter operations in the country has been kept vacant for over two years; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) and (b):- A Mi-172 helicopter VT-MAF belonging to M/s.Mesco Airlines, engaged by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation(ONGC) crashed off Mumbai High on 11.8.2003 resulting in fatalities to 27 persons.
- (c):- A total of 14 helicopters have crashed since 2000 in the country. These helicopters were owned by M/s. India International Airways, M/s. Span Air, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Himalayan Heliservices Private Limited, Government of Madhya Pradesh, M/s. Deccan Aviation Limited, M/s. Million Air, M/s. AzalIndia, M/s. Tata Tea Private Limited and M/s. Mesco Airlines Limited.
- (d):- No, Sir.
- (e):- Does not arise.