

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:84

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS

Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during 2005 and 2006, till date;
- (b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof and compensation paid in each case;
- (c) whether each accident has been investigated;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action taken on each investigation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 84 FOR ANSWER ON 23.2.2006

A total number of 13 aircraft and 8 helicopters of the Defence Forces have crashed during the period from January 2005 up to 31st January 2006.

There was no loss of civil property in the accidents except the accident which took place on 13.12.2005 in which paddy crop was damaged in the open field. The compensation case for the same is under process as per rules.

A total number of 13 Defence personnel and one civilian have been killed in these accidents during this period. Compensation to the next of kin of the Defence personnel have been paid as per the service norms. An Ex-gratia payment of Rs. One lakh to the only civilian killed in the accident which took place on 8.3.2005 (involving MiG-21 Bis aircraft of the Indian Air Force) has been paid.

Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial actions according to the recommendations of the Court are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) both indigenous and foreign are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.