

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:678
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
PERFORMANCE OF DHRUV HELICOPTERS
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Dhruv helicopters are being used by armed forces in the country;
- (b) if so, whether performance of these helicopters have been found satisfactory;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) the names of the countries to whom these helicopters have been exported till-date alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): Though the fleet has been grounded since November 2005 consequent to force landing of a Dhruv helicopter, the performance of the helicopters has been satisfactory barring certain defects/component failure. These have been communicated to M/s HAL for taking appropriate corrective measures.

(e) Two Dhruv helicopters were supplied to Government of Nepal under Government of India Friendship Aid Package under concessional terms. The export earning on account of this supply is Rs. 76.36 crores. Another one helicopter was supplied to Israel aircraft Industries (IAI), Israel on lease basis in 2005 for a period of five years. As per the contract, a fixed amount of 67,500 USD per month and an additional amount of 650 USD per flight hour is being paid by IAI, Israel.

(f) HAL and Indian Air Force have jointly demonstrated the capabilities of Dhruv helicopters at Air shows in Singapore, Dubai and Chile. In addition, Dhruv helicopter was exhibited on INS Viraat during her goodwill visit to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Assistance from Indian Missions abroad is being taken to promote the export of Dhruv and to follow up the proposals for sales/demonstrations.