

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
REPAIRING OF HELICOPTER
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Air Force has extended the calendar life of a helicopter without authority and without appropriate technical documents;
- (b) if so, whether the said helicopter was collapsed within the period of extended life causing an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 3.49 crores on its repairs;
- (c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) The IAF has both infrastructure and expertise for granting calendar life extension on both TBO (Time Between Overhaul) and TTL (Total Technical Life) of MI-series helicopters. This is undertaken in consultation with various technical agencies by carrying out detailed checks on each of the processes.
- (b) A helicopter of IAF collapsed within the period of extended life but the collapse was not due to the extended calendar life but due to failure of a part of the aircraft.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The Court of Inquiry attributed the collapse to faults in one of the parts of the aircraft which was replaced by the Original Equipment Manufacturer in other helicopters.
- (e) As recommended by the Court of Inquiry, checks were carried out on the other three MI-26 helicopters and similar defects in struts were found. The struts on these helicopters were replaced by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).