

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:22

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS

Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) The loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof ;
- (c) The reasons for the frequent air crashes of aircraft/helicopters ;
- (d) Whether despite constant efforts new trainer aircraft has not been manufactured so far ;
- (e) If so, the reasons therefor and the progress made so far in this regard ;
- (f) Whether the Government proposes to replace existing helicopter fleet of Army Aviation operating on high altitude; and
- (g) If so, the details in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)to(g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 22 FOR ANSWER ON 23.11.2006

A total number of 43 aircraft and 15 Helicopters of the Defence Forces have met with accidents during the last three financial years and the current financial year so far. The major causes of these accidents are Human Error and Technical Defect. The details of the accidents, loss of lives and property in these accidents are given at Annexure.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is procuring 66 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft for training purpose. Out of the 66 HAWK AJT, 24 aircraft will be procured in flyaway condition from UK. Delivery will commence from September, 2007 at the rate of 4 aircraft per month. The remaining 42 aircraft are being licence produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Delivery will be at the rate of 1-2 aircraft per month from March, 2008.

Besides, the IAF is also supporting the HAL project for indigenous development and manufacture of Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) aircraft for training purpose.

The existing fleet of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters available with the Indian Army is planned to be replaced by a technologically advanced light helicopter in a phased manner.