

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2231

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006

UTILISATION OF MiG-21 BISONs

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the upgraded MiG-21 called Bisons are proving a nightmare for pilots as reported in the Times of India dated September 10, 2006 ;
- (b) if so, whether only one third of the MiG-21 Bisons inducted in IAF so far are fully operational to undertake combat mission ;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not utilising the entire fleet of MiG-21 Bisons;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make full utilisation of such MiG-21 Bisons; and
- (e) the number of MiG-21 Bisons met with accidents/crashed alongwith the loss of lives and property suffered therein during the current year ?

Answer

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

(a) Upgraded MiG-21 aircraft called Bisons have improved the combat capability of the IAF.

(b) to (d): About 90% aircraft have been upgraded, and the remaining 10% are likely to be upgraded by March, 2007. Within the prevailing constraints, all the upgraded MiG-21 Bisons are utilized optimally by IAF and routine inspections-cum-minor rectifications are carried out at regular intervals.

(e)No accident of MiG-21 Bison has been reported during the current financial year 2006-2007). However, the Indian Air Force has lost one Bison aircraft in January, 2006 and there has been no loss of life and property.