

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:492

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007

AIRCRAFT/ HELICOPTERS ACCIDENTS

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during the last six months;
- (b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the frequent air crashes of aircraft/helicopters; and
- (d) the steps being taken to prevent such mishaps?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) A total number of seven aircraft and four helicopters of Defence Forces met with accidents during the last six months (from 1st August, 2006 to 23rd February, 2007).
- (b) Six pilots/service personnel were killed in these accidents. There was no loss of civil life. The loss to civil property in one of these accidents is Rs.86,309. In another accident which took place on 24.1.2007, the aircraft crashed in cultivated area damaging crops.
- (c) The major reasons for aircraft accidents in the Defence Forces are Human Error and Technical Defect. However, in each case of accident, an investigation is carried out and appropriate remedial actions are taken.
- (d) 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 Manufactures (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.