

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3585
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
EXPEDITION OF INDIAN ARMY
Deora Shri Milind Murl

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indian Army expedition has recovered the bodies of three soldiers who are believed to have been killed nearly forty years ago when an Air Force Antonov-12 troop carrier transporting them crashed in the Higher Himalayas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the bodies of the dead soldiers have been identified even after such a long gap and the family members informed;
- (d) whether any attempt was made immediately to locate the wreckage of the aircraft and the dead bodies; and
- (e) if so, the results thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. On 9th August, 2007, the Indian Army Expedition recovered the bodies of three soldiers who were killed in an air crash in 1968. The bodies of the deceased soldiers were identified and handed over to the family members. The details of the dead soldiers are given in the annexure.

(d)&(e) : The area where the bodies of the deceased soldiers were found was searched and no more recoveries were made.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY GIVEN IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3585 FOR ANSWER ON 10.9.2007

The details of the dead soldiers are as under:-

- (a) No. 946907 Pioneer Hardas Singh Niharwal of 1452 Pioneer Company.
- (b) No.6871129 Lance Naik Kamal Singh Bhandari of 4 Mobile Laundry (Ordnance).
- (c) No.7072102 Craftsman MN Phukan of EME.