

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:469

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005

HELICOPTER/AIRCRAFT CRASHES

Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that due to frequent helicopter/aircraft crashes many VIPs alongwith other passengers died in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the number of persons died in such incidents during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has set up Inquiry Committees to probe the causes of these incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Inquiry Committees have since completed their investigations and submitted their reports to the Government;
- (f) if so, the findings thereof; and (g) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the light of findings of the Committees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question() No. 469 dated 28.04.2005 regarding Helicopter/Aircraft Crashes.

(a) and (b):- Out of the 21 accidents in Indian Civil Registerd aircraft/helicopters in the last 3 years i.e. from 2002 till date in 3 accidents VIPs were involved. In all these 21 accidents, 63 persons including crew members and 4 VIPs met with fatal injuries.

(c) and (d):- Yes, Sir. In an accident to Deccan Aviation Bell 206 helicopter near Vijyawada on 03.03.2002 in which Shri G.M.C.Balayogi received fatal injury in addition to 2 others on board, a Committee of Inquiry investigated the accident. In the remaining accidents Inspector of Accidents were appointed by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)for investigating the cause of accidents.

(e), (f) and (g):- The Committee of Inquiry set up to inquire into the accident of M/s. Deccan Aviation`s helicopter near Vijyawada on 3.3.2002 has submitted its report. According to the Committee the accident was caused when the pilot unable to continue the flight due to poor visibility while searching for an appropriate place to land, made an error of judgement by making the pond water as land surface. After realising so when he attempted to lift the helicopter from a low height, the tail boom contacted water surface and got separated causing the helicopter to spin and crash. The recommendations of the Committee are under implementation by DGCA.

In the remaining investigations safety recommendations emanating from various accident investigations as and when received and accepted by the Government were followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies so as to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.