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Title: The Minister of Defence made a statement regarding Missing IAF AN-32 aircraft on July 22, 2016.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): I would like to make a statement in regard to the IAF AN-32 aircraft that went missing on 22nd July, 2016.

The IAF operates a courier service from Tambaram to Port Blair thrice a week using AN-32 aircraft. On 22.07.2016 at about 1225 hours, Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC), Chennai reported that an IAF AN-32 (AF-330) was not in contact. The aircraft was *en route* from Chennai to Port Blair, having departed from Tambaram at 0830 hours. The aircraft had a crew of six and was carrying 23 passengers. The weather in the area approximately 500 kilometres south-east of Tambaram was mainly overcast with multi-layered clouds and embedded convection. One thundershower cloud was reported in the area. The aircraft had weather avoidance radar and had asked for deviation to the right to avoid it. The flying time to Port Blair is three hours. The Expected Time of Arrival (ETA) of the aircraft was 1130 hours. Overdue action, as per the Standard Operating Procedures started at 1230 hours.

Immediately on receipt of information from MRCC, a P-8 I was diverted to the area. This was followed by two Indian Navy and two Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships being diverted to the area within one hour. A total of about 99 sorties utilising 401 hours have been flown so far. The air assets deployed included five P-8 I, four Dornier Do-228 aircraft, and five helicopters of the Indian Navy, one AN-32, two C-130, one Avro aircraft and two Mi-17 V5 helicopters of Indian Air Force and five Dornier Do-228 aircraft of Indian Coast Guard. In addition to the above, one Bombardier Global 5000 aircraft has also been deployed.

Further, 13 Indian Navy and four Indian Coast Guard ships and one submarine have been deployed in the search area. All merchant vessels passing through the area have been asked to report any sighting.

All the next of kin of the crew and passengers on board have been informed and regular updates on the search operations are being given to them by nominated officials. Officers from the closest units have gone and personally met the next of kin.

Based on inputs from all sources, areas of three oil slicks, five transmission intercepts and twenty two floating objects have been thoroughly investigated by ships and aircraft, without any concrete evidence emerging with respect to the missing IAF AN-32, till date. The twenty two floating objects recovered have been determined as not related to the missing aircraft. An Indian Navy submarine is also currently undertaking search in the designated area. Currently, the search efforts are focused on the surface as well as the underwater domain to look for survivors and debris.

The search for missing IAF AN-32 is being supplemented by the use of indigenous satellites such as CARTOSAT 2A and 2B which have the ability to cover areas of the swath of 27 x 27 km. and have a resolution of 0.8m. The area is being frequently imaged by the satellites. Several inputs and leads on floating objects and possible transmissions have been picked up from satellite imagery and air surveillance efforts. Each of these has been thoroughly investigated by ships and aircraft, however, no concrete evidence with respect to AN-32 has emerged, so far.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the total technical life of AN-32 aircraft.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I cannot tell you the exact technical life of AN-32.

[Placed inLibrary, See No. LT 4956/16/16]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, we have to take up the discussion on Price Rice under Rule 193....(*Interruptions*)

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14.38 hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERSContd.

**Re: Reported incursion by Chinese Army into
Indian Territory of Uttarakhand**

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, we had raised a very important issue in the morning with regard to the internal security of the country....(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give a notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): We have already given the notice....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, the Defence Minister is here. We would like to have a response from him....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): In the morning the Parliamentary Affairs Minister told that he would convey the message to the Defence Minister and he would reply. Therefore, when the Defence Minister is here, he should respond to that....(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not responding. What can I do?

Shri Karunakaran.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: There is no reply from the Government. There is no accountability of this Government....(*Interruptions*) The Defence Minister is sitting in the House....(*Interruptions*) Chinese forces have entered into India and there is no response from the Government....(*Interruptions*) We would like the Defence Minister to clarify the situation....(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : It is the Home Minister who controls the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. So, the reply will be from the Home Minister and not the Defence Minister....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, the Defence Minister has no answer....(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has replied.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to participate in the discussion on the Price Rise under Rule 193....(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we may take up the Discussion under Rule 193 on Price Rise.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I will give them the reply....(*Interruptions*) Though the ITBP comes under Home Ministry, I can explain to them the exact...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Being the Defence Minister don't you have any responsibility?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I am replying.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: You are the custodian of the security of the country. We are glad that you have got up to answer, only on our request.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Sir, before I reply, the matter has to be understood properly in the sense that borders are normally manned by the Border Security Force or the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police is under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence is linked only with the Line of Actual Control or the Line of Control with Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The rest of the areas are under the Border Security Force, Seema Suraksha Bal or ITBP.

However, I would like to make it clear that this particular issue, as is being reported, does not actually exist in the same way. The Indo-China border has not been formally demarcated and there are areas where both sides...(*Interruptions*). Please listen to me completely...(*Interruptions*).

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you address the Chair.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: The India-China border has not been formally demarcated. There are areas where both sides have differing perception of the Line of Control and both sides patrol up to their respective perceptions due to which temporary transgressions occur. Bara Hoti in Uttarakhand is one such area where there are differing perceptions.

On 22nd July, 2016, two PLA personnel transgressed into Indian territory by 200 metres. Indian civilians in the area warned the PLA patrol to go back and the PLA patrol returned back to the Chinese side. To resolve such issues, there is a well established system for exchange of information and projecting any differences from Flag meetings at border personnel meeting points. On 22nd July, 2016, transgression by PLA patrol in Bara Hoti is being protested to the Chinese side through the established mechanism of Flag meeting. There is no incursion and there is only transgression which has been already settled. We have a well defined mechanism to settle such transgressions. Annually, there are about 400-500 such transgressions. This year, the number of transgressions has been reduced...(*Interruptions*). This is happening because Line of Actual Control is not well demarcated on the China border. There are many areas including Bara Hoti where perception differs in regard to the Line of Actual Control. From our angle the Line of Control is here and they think it is there and sometimes these transgressions take place. It is not incursion but it was only a transgression...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, it is the Chinese point of view that it is not demarcated...(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

14.45 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Price rise