

(c) and (d) Eight aircrafts have crashed during the past 6 months (1.1.2009 to 30.6.2009). Each accident is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence in future. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. In addition, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Violation of Indian Air Space by a US military aircraft

455. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US military aircraft flying from Pakistan intruded into Indian Airspace on 19th June, 2009 and was forced to land at the International airport in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Air Force and DGCA have decided to conduct a joint inquiry into the incident;

(d) if so, whether such violation of our airspace is dangerous one; and

(e) if so, what steps his Ministry propose to take to check such airspace violation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) On 19th June, 2009, an AN-124 aircraft belonging to Volga Dnepr Airlines of Russia, hired by United States Air Force violated Indian airspace and was asked to land at Mumbai International airport.

(c) to (e) No decision has been taken to conduct a joint inquiry into the incident. Any violation of our airspace is a security threat. Continuous vigil is maintained by the Indian Air Force over Indian airspace. Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures are in place to counter such airspace violations. Close integration between Indian Air Force and concerned civil security agencies is maintained.

Purchase of missiles from Israel

456. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement entered into between India and Israel since 2004;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently DRDO entered into contract with Israel to import medium-range surface-to-surface air missiles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?