

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation is still in underway. In some of the major international meetings held recently such as the G-20 held in London in April 2009, leaders including the US, EU and India have expressed commitment to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round.

In the agricultural negotiations, India has been working closely with other developing countries to ensure substantial and effective reductions in agriculture subsidies. This would enable developing countries to promote the interests of and ensure a level playing field for their low income and resource poor farmers.

Accidents of MiG fighter planes

2758. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MiG planes used by Air Force that met with accident during the last five years alongwith number of pilots who lost their life in these accidents;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for their accidents;
- (c) the number of remaining MiG planes with the Air Force; and
- (d) whether Government has any other option to meet the shortfall of MiG planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 32 MiG aircraft have met with accident during the last five years (from 1.4.2004 till date). A total number of 8 pilots have lost their lives in these accidents.

(b) to (d) Each accident in the Indian Air Force is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly. The fleet strength of the Indian Air Force is reviewed from time to time and necessary action is taken as per the operational requirement.

Revamping DRDO

2759. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what action has been taken by Government on the report of Rama Rao Committee for revamping several ongoing projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); and
- (b) the main strategic projects, the panel had suggested to revamp and why?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Rama Rao Committee submitted its Report to the Government on 5th March 2008. The Government has recently, constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary to look into the responses and suggestions made by various stake holders on the recommendations of the Rama Rao Committee.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.