

operated by Pakistan on the International Airlines, into flight refuelling tankers which would enable Pakistan to threaten targets all over India ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Government have seen the press report in question.

(b) Government continues to maintain a strong vigil over all development having a bearing on the country's security .

Acquisition of missiles tracking technology from Japan

1869. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has developed new sophisticated missile-tracking technology regarding Surface to Air Missiles (SAM) which it is providing to US;

(b) whether Government have assessed the benefits of such technology for India's defence requirements ; and

(c) whether Government propose to acquire similar technology from Japan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Japan, as per information available in open literature, has developed/is developing missile tracking technology. The information regarding their contract with USA is not known.

(b) Yes, Sir. An assessment of technology required for such systems has been made and steps have been taken to develop such technology.

(c) No, Sir.

Accidents involving Indian Air Force aircraft

1870. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of accidents involving Indian Air Force planes during the last three years, year-wise till date ;

(b) what is the number of casualties and the type of aircraft involved in each of the accidents ;

(c) in what manner the facilities available for training of the Indian Air Force personnel for operation and maintenance of the new generation of aircraft compare with those available for Britain's Royal Air Force and the US Air Force ; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the fields of operating and maintaining the sophisticated aircrafts to minimise the number of accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

(c) Training requirements of the IAF's air/ground crew are being adequately catered for. The facilities available in the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force would not necessarily suit our purposes.

(d) The Air Marshal A La Fontaine Committee on Flight Safety recommended a number of measures to improve training in the IAF. Most of its recommendations have been implemented. Action to finalise decisions on its remaining recommendations is in hand.