

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Doesn't arise in view of answer to (a) above.

IAF squadrons for strategic balance with China and Pakistan

4337. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAF Squadrons required for achieving strategic balance on both the fronts viz. China and Pakistan;

(b) how many of them have so far been planned and raised by now;

(c) what is the percentage of accidents due to technical defects, human failure and bird hit under the last five years; and

(d) what is the strategy of life extension to existing fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The number of Indian Air Force (IAF) squadrons required is decided based on various factors like threat perceptions, security concerns and operational requirements of the IAF and is reviewed from time to time.

(c) In the last five years (Financial Years 2005-06 to 2009-10), 48.3% of the accidents in the IAF were due to Technical Defects, 37.9% were due to Human Error and 8.6% were due to Bird Hit.

(d) The IAF has a well structured strategy in place for life extension of existing aircraft fleet by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and also by Indian agencies like Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), National Aeronautics Ltd. (NAL), etc.

Illegal sale of goods from army canteens

4338. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information about illegal sale of goods from the Army canteens;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop these irregularities; and

(c) how many cases has been registered for such cases in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) During the last three years five such cases have come to the notice of Defence Services. No case has been registered with local