

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) Since April, 2005, a total of 19 MIG-21 aircrafts of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed. In these crashes, 7 pilot were killed.

(b) to (d) Every aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry to determine the cause of the accident and remedial measures are taken. Accidents are due to reasons like technical defects and human error. Phasing out of aircrafts is contingent upon various factors like technical life of the aircrafts and operational requirements of the IAF and is reviewed from time to time.

**Release of MOD share for Barmer lift drinking water supply project**

†1833. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of time schedule by when the remaining amount of Ministry of Defence share for Barmer lift drinking water supply project would be released?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : Out of the estimated Defence share in the Barmer lift drinking water supply project Rs. 82.78 Crore has already been released in April, 2010. The balance payment is being released in a phased manner depending on the progress of the work.

**Strategic roads along border**

1834. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to strengthen the line of communication and movement, the Union Government has asked the Border Roads Organisation to focus on constructing strategic roads and airfields along the border with China and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made by the Border Roads Organisation in this regard;

(c) whether Government had identified the key factors for poor infrastructure in areas along the Line of Actual Control with China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Border Road Organisation (BRO) has been asked to concentrate on strategic roads;

- (i) There are 73 roads on Indo-China border (length 3647 Km), out of which, BRO has been entrusted with 61 roads of total length of 3394 Km in J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Out of 61 roads, 14 roads of length 556.22 Km have already been completed and works are under progress on 42 roads and on 5 roads work has not commenced. 41 roads are planned for completion by 2013 and remaining 06 beyond 2013.
- (ii) No separate road packages on Indo-Pakistan border have been assigned to BRO. However, entire length of 10,646 Km roads in the vicinity of border are being maintained/developed by BRO. Out of this total length, 7344 Km have already been completed and balance length is planned for completion by 2012 for priority I roads and by 2022 for priority II roads.

(c) and (d) Earlier the military doctrine of the country was not to have roads close to borders, but the same has now been revised in the changing geopolitical scenario, and Government has taken a conscious decision to expedite construction of road infrastructure in border areas.

Lack of air effort by helicopter for mobilization of resources, delay in forest/wildlife clearance, unwillingness of contractors to work in remote and difficult terrains are the major factors that affected improvement of infrastructure in border areas.

#### **Sinking of Coast Guard Ship 'Vivek'**

†1835. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sunken Coast Guard ship 'Vivek' met with an accident recently in Mumbai and it remained under sea for fifty days and could be brought out by bringing in 3000 tonne bloating crane;

(b) whether the Coast Guard have demanded an amount of Rs. 900 crores from Government for salvage operation;

(c) whether Government would consider sanctioning it as early as possible as there is always high alert on the coastal areas of Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.