

requirement is for an aircraft fulfilling the Strike/Ground-attack role at present performed by the Hunters and Canberras. The Jaguar is a specialised aircraft and was developed jointly by the British and the French specifically for such a role.

It has specialised equipment required for such a role, to which Air Force experts attach special importance.

It is not true that Jaguars are obsolete. They are currently in service with French Air Force as well as British Air Force and will be in service for quite sometime to come.

They answer the IAF requirements in regard to Speed profile and other parameters.

As stated earlier, the requirement of the Air Force was for a specialised Ground-attack aircraft and the Jaguar fulfils this requirement. While the Jaguar has the requisite manoeuvrability for such a role, the kind of this particular characteristic required of an Interceptor for purposes of air-combat are not wholly relevant with reference to the IAF's needs, since the Jaguar is not meant to be used in that role. IAF has its own complement of Interceptors.

At low altitude when carrying the warload both aircraft have the same maximum speeds; in fact, the Jaguar carries higher warloads. After delivering the bombload both aircraft have similar maximum speeds and manoeuvrability at low altitude, required for self-defence. According to the Chief of Air Staff and other Air Force experts, the Jaguar has therefore, the requisite survivability by reasons of low level penetration below the radar cover, adequately high speeds and single pass attack capability as laid down by the Air Force. Added to these characteristics, the Jaguar will have its own proposed self-defence weapons increasing its survivability. It is therefore not true to suggest that it will require fighter cover for deep penetration strikes.

Purchase of Harrier Vertical Take-off and Landing aircraft

*67. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA;
SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN;
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to buy Harrier Vertical Take-off and Landing (V-TOL) aircraft from Britain for the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, what are its special features and how the same compare with similar type of aircraft presently in use with the Navy; and

(c) how many such aircraft are proposed to be purchased and on what terms?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Government have decided to buy the Sea-Harrier for the Indian Navy.

(b) The Sea Harrier is a vertical/short Take Off and Landing Aircraft which can be launched or recovered by a variety of platforms at sea. The present Seahawk used by the Indian Navy is restricted to operations from a conventional Aircraft carrier fitted with a catapult and arrester gear. The Sea Harriers also have higher speed, and can be operated in varying surface winds at sea and in all weather.

(c) It will not be in the public interests to disclose the details.

Disrespect shown to the Scheduled Castes leader in Cooch Behar

*69. SHRI PRASENJIT BURMAN;
SHRI AHAMED HOSSAIN
MANDAL;
SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent incident at Satmille within P. S. Kotwali, Dt. Cooch Behar in West Bengal in which the signboard of Panchanan Smriti Bhawan, established

after the name of the esteemed Scheduled Castes leader of North Bengal, late Rai Saheb Panchanan Barma, was thrown and kicked away by some persons;

(b) if so, whether action has been taken against the offenders to vindicate the honour and prestige of the esteemed Scheduled Castes leader?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) & (b) Facts are being ascertained from Government of West Bengal and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of Coal mines of the Western Coalfields

***70. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reorganise and modernise the coal mines in the Western Coalfields' area; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 28 projects for reconstruction or reorganisation in the Western Coalfields Limited, have been approved by the Government, and by the Board of Directors under their own delegated powers. The total capital investment for these projects has been estimated at Rs. 155.00 crores for the targetted production of 19.28 million tonnes. Five reconstruction projects are under consideration. Four projects are in the process of being formulated by the Company.

Time given for regional languages programmes by various AIR Stations

***71. SHRI T. ANJIAH:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the total time given to English, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and other languages programmes on each day during the months of January, February and March in the years 1976 to 1978 including originating and relay programmes as well as music programmes broadcast from each channel of the AIR stations of Delhi A, B and C, Jullundur A and B, Chandigarh, Rohtak, Jammu, Srinagar A and B and Vividh Bharati (all channels)?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): The exact duration of each language differs from month to month in accordance with the requirements of programmes. Such data asked for is not maintained. The compilation of the information will not be commensurate with the results required to be achieved.

जम्मू क्षेत्रीय अनुसन्धान प्रयोगशाला में आपात स्थिति के दौरान छंटनी किए गए कर्मचारियों का बहाल किया जाना

***72. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्षेत्रीय अनुसन्धान प्रयोगशाला जम्मू के उन कर्मचारियों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनकी 1975-77 में आपात स्थिति के दौरान छंटनी की गई थी; और

(ख) छंटनी किए गए ऐसे कर्मचारियों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्हें अभी तक बहाल नहीं किया गया है और उन्हें बहाल न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?