

Crash of Mirage aircrafts

14. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Mirage aircrafts had crashed within one month between September, 2004 and October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered into these crashes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to ground Mirage aircrafts in view of these air-crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):
(a) to (e) There have been three Mirage 2000 aircraft crashes during the period 23rd September, 2004 and 9th November, 2004.

In the first accident, which took place on 23rd September, 2004 at Gwalior airfield, one Mirage 2000 aircraft crashed after the pilot ejected since the main wheel detached after take off. The second accident occurred on 12th October, 2004 at Gwalior Local Flying Area (LFA) in which one Mirage 2000 crashed due to engine problem. The pilots ejected safely. The third accident also took place at Gwalior LFA on 9th November, 2004 in which one Mirage 2000 crashed during the night flying. The pilot was killed in the crash.

Courts of Inquiry have been ordered into all these accidents.

There is no proposal to ground the Mirage aircraft.

Export of ALHs

15. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we have good export potential for the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether we have received orders for these helicopters from other countries; if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of foreign exchange so far earned out of these deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With advanced technological features, capability for multi-mission, multi-role operations in varying climatic conditions and customised role equipments, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) have got potential in several market segments.

(c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has submitted techno-commercial proposals to several countries for supply of ALH. HAL has supplied two ALH to the Government of Nepal at a total price of Rs. 76.36 crores.

Discriminatory treatment to Defence pensioners

16. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence pensioners below officers rank living in Delhi have to present themselves physically before the Defence Pension Disbursing Officer at Red Fort on appointed dates for signing the annual identification certificates in his presence, which cause them avoidable hardship and discomfort, particularly to the infirm sick and the old;

(b) whether the civilian pensioners sign such certificates in the bank branches, from where they actually draw their pension; and

(c) if so, why this discrimination and whether Government propose to rectify the same; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence pensioners below officers rank before retirement, who opt to draw pension from Defence Pension Disbursing Officer, Red Fort, only are required to present themselves before Defence Pension Disbursing Officer on any working date after 1st April during the year for Annual identification in order to ensure that payment of pension is made to genuine claimants. In respect of infirm, bodily ill and aged defence pensioners, instead of physical presence, provisions exist for acceptance of a life