

some of these leaders. But on investigation, we were not able to establish that she was a spy. She claimed to be a journalist. There was no evidence to point that she was a spy.

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी : सर, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि असम के रंगिया से अरुणाचल के मुरकुंसेलेक तक जो रेल चलती है, वह रेल दो महीने से ज्यादा समय से बंद हो गई है। सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के कारण इस ट्रेन के बंद होने पर रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से होम मिनिस्ट्री को जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा रहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या होम मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से इस संबंध में आप कुछ सिक्योरिटी की व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, actually this does not arise from this question, but I am talking from memory. If the hon. Member is talking about the rail link between Silchar and Imphal, yes, we are....

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Sir, I am talking about Rangia to Murkongselek.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I would require a separate notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give a separate notice for it.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, is the hon. Home Minister aware of the fact that large-scale extortions and complaints are going on unregistered in the North East States? Even Ministers, MLAs and activists of political parties have to pay monthly instalments to these underground organizations. Do you have any specific information that one of the Chief Ministers was given a threatening letter saying that you have given only this much and what about the remaining amount? I am talking about Manipur.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said in my answer to the earlier question, I am aware that there is a considerable degree of extortion and the Government servants are also not exempt. It is quite possible that public servants are also paying money to extortionists. But on the specific statement made by the hon. Member, I have no information that such a demand was made from the Chief Minister.

Fighter aircraft crashes

*27. **SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2010, crashes of a total of 10 IAF aircraft took place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the current year till now a series of IAF aircraft crashes have taken place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAMRAJU): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) During the year 2010 (1st January, 2010 to 31st December, 2010), 12 accidents of Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts took place. In these accidents 5 pilots, 11 service personnel and 4 civilians were killed.

During the current year (1st January, 2011 to 18th February, 2011), one accident of IAF aircraft has taken place. No pilot/service personnel or civilian was killed in this accident.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indian Air Force is the world's fourth largest air force. At the same time, as for the crashes or accidents occurred of the Indian Air Force MIG 21, the hon. Minister was on record sometime back saying that there were 265 accidents, leaving 150 pilots dead. The MIG 21s in the Air Force are obsolete, old and unmanageable. What remedial measures is the Government proposing to upgrade the flight safety in order to check the recurrence of these accidents and crashes?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, a number of measures are being taken to ensure flight safety. Subsequent to any air crash, a Court of Inquiry is established, and a thorough investigation is done. Sir, as you know, a majority of Air Force Squadrons constitute MIG series aircraft, which are becoming obsolete. We are phasing them out gradually, and there is a very good modernization plan on the anvil in the Indian Air Force which will ensure induction of more modern and better aircraft.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The phasing out of MIG-21 is imminent today. There are two issues involved in this. One is the acquisition of new fighter aircraft, and the other one is indigenous development. In both the fields, the Indian Air Force is lagging behind. Is it a fact that the Medium Multi-Role Compact Aircraft can only be inducted in the

year 2020, and that indigenous development of our aircraft is unduly delayed? Therefore, the MIG-21, which is supposed to be phased out in 2011,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stick to your supplementary.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: I would like to know what steps the Government is taking for faster acquisition and also developing our indigenous system.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, as my colleague has just now spelt out, a substantial number of Squadrons of fighter aircraft are of MIG Series. The Government and the Indian Air Force have got a clear-cut plan for replacing them in a phased manner. According to the Air Force, by the year 2017, the entire MIG Series will be replaced in a phased manner, that is, from 2014 onwards. By that time, there is another plan to induct most modern aircraft. One is induction of a sufficient number of Sukhoi Fighter Aircraft. That is going on as per plan. Already Sukhoi are inducted into the Air Force. Another one, as the hon. Member pointed out, is the LCA. I am glad to inform the House that last month, the IOC of the LCA was successfully completed, and very soon, the LCA will be inducted into the Indian Air Force. Already, the Air Force has ordered for 20 aircraft, and another 20 are going to be inducted. Even though there were delays earlier, things are on track now; so, LCAs also will be inducted. There is another proposal for acquisition of 126 MMROA. That will also be done in time. It is going to happen, as the Member has said, in 2020. The MMROA will be inducted before that. So, now, a large number of acquisitions are taking place. Whatever has happened in the past is all history. I also feel sorry about that. Now, a series of acquisitions are taking place. These include Sukhoi, LCA and, ultimately, MMROA. So, things are now on track. But, in the past, because of historical reasons, we were not able to acquire enough most modern aircraft. This was the sorry state of affairs.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: I have a specific supplementary on this. Is it not a fact that after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the spare parts, which we used to get on Government-to-Government basis, are now being given to us by private companies which have taken over warehouses, etc.? Also, the spare parts are not of quality. They are not even certified by the Government, and this is the root-cause of these accidents.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: No; no, that is not correct. Sir, one part of what the hon. Member has stated is correct. After the disintegration of Soviet Union, some of the factories, which produce components, are now in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. As a result, there are some slippages in delivery of spare parts. But we are now trying to get the delivery of spare parts as quickly as possible.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Quality?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Quality is all right. There is no complaint about quality, by and large. But if there have been any complaints, we have always returned the delivery. About quality, there are no complaints. But complaints are there regarding time schedules. That is a serious problem. We are trying to address that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Foreign private detective and investigating agencies

*28. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign private detective and investigating agencies are registered with Government for providing their services in India;

(b) the criteria for registration of these agencies;

(c) whether Government is aware that many of these agencies are working in the country without any registration with Government;

(d) whether Government is aware that many retired officers of Government intelligence agencies are working in these agencies immediately after their retirement from Government service; and

(e) the details of action taken in those cases as they may be providing secret information regarding Government, collected during their service to the private clients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) There is no Central law for the registration of detective and