

pay-scales. In addition, the weightage of Sepoy, Naik and Havildar ranks for past as well as future retirees has been enhanced from 5 years to 10, 8 and 6 years respectively subject to a maximum qualifying service of 30 years. However, if any person is getting a qualifying service of more than 30 years with the existing weightage, he would continue getting that.

(c) Directorate General, Resettlement organizes resettlement training/ vocational training of varying duration in various institutes across the country in a diverse range of disciplines for armed forces personnel about to retire to equip them for employment in the civil market. Review of courses and institutes is an ongoing process to enhance the employability potential of the personnel. These courses are conducted free of cost for the PBOR.

Launch of Battimalu

339. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact Navy launched its fast attack craft battimalu; and
- (b) how this helps in boosting indigenisation of such craft in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Fast Attack Craft (FAC) 'Battimalui' was launched on 28.6.2005 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. at Kolkata.

(b) The FAC has been designed indigenously and constructed at the Indian shipyard, GRSE Ltd., Kolkata. Almost total indigenization has been achieved in the construction of the craft which has helped the local Indian industry substantially.

National War Memorial

340. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 300 soldiers, on an average are killed every year while fighting an 'undeclared war' in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East but we do not have a National War Memorial to honour their sacrifices; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The number of soldiers killed in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East during the last 4 years is as under-

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
No. of Soldiers Killed	254	241	187	136

A concept plan for the National War Memorial which envisages location at India Gate Complex has been presented before Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC). Identification and providing the site for the proposed structure, which involves decision/clearance by various agencies is not within the control of Ministry of Defence.

Less Air Crashes during 2005

341. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the Indian Air Force, the year 2005 is the safest year during the last 36 years since it has recorded only 10 crashes in 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry evolved/studied the reasons behind this so that the same could be followed; and

(c) whether this can put IAF at par with the safest operational air forces in the world?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the financial year 2005-2006, till date, a total of nine accidents have been reported which is the safest record in the history of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

(c) The IAF is moving towards achieving the flight safety standards of the advanced Air Forces of the world and it is a continuing exercise.