

being kept under surveillance by regular patrolling by troops and other means. There are no confirmed reports of an intrusion into Indian air space from the Chinese side on 25th August, 2011.

**CAG's finding on handling of aerostat radars**

975. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found that Indian Air Force's (IAF) inept handling of Aerostat radars blunted its capabilities to detect hostile fighters, and burdened taxpayers with losses adding upto Rs.302 crore;

(b) whether CAG has also pointed out that IAF's failure to track whether patterns, inadequate supervision and shoddy maintenance led to many Aircraft accidents; if so, the details thereof, till-date; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to stop losses due to Aircraft accidents indicating what action has been taken against the guilty officials in each case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The CAG has commented on certain aspects of IAF's Aerostat Radars. Requisite action is being taken thereon.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Every aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry and necessary measures are taken.

**Malfunctioning of Aerostat radars**

†976. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had taken a decision in March, 2002 to purchase two Aerostat radars from a company of Israel and the company had provided the same in March, 2007 and November, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above purchased Aerostat radars are now not working properly;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The contract for procurement of two aerostats was signed with M/s Rafael, Israel on 15th March, 2002. The first Aerost system was commissioned on 15th May, 2007 while the second Aerostat was commissioned on 15th May, 2008.

(c) to (e) While one aerostat system is working well, the other system was damaged due to sudden strong gust of wind on 27th May, 2009 and became non-operational. Steps have been initiated for recovery of the system.

**Increase in direct intake of 50 by AFHQ Civil Services**

977. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment rules for Armed Forces Head Quarters (AFHQ) Civil Services have been recently amended to increase the direct intake at Section Officer grade from 20 per cent to 50 per cent;

(b) how Ministry propose to fill the vacancies at 50 per cent direct intake when the direct intake since 2005 at 20 per cent has been only 07 against 145 vacancies;

(c) whether the departmental exam for promotion from Assistant grade to the Section Officer grade has been stopped in AFHQ Civil Services; and

(d) if so, when the Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations have been to introduce atleast 10 per cent promotions in each grade through departmental exams, why has it stopped an already existing exam in AFHQ Civil Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The vacancies will be filled up on the basis of the Civil Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission as per rules. Unfilled vacancies will be diverted to promotion quota as per the amended Rules.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) in the grade of Section Officer in Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civil Service has been discontinued as per AFHQ Civil Service cadre review committee recommendations, wherein factors such as age profile of