

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3043**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

**AIRCRAFT WITH IAF**

3043. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE please be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of fighter aircraft with the Indian Air Force (IAF) are nearing the end of their operational life and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken to replace these ageing aircraft of the IAF;
- (c) the number of aircraft crashed during each of the last three years and the current year and the number out of them that were ageing aircraft; and
- (d) the reasons for such crashes?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

**(a) The Indian Air Force inventory is a mix of old and new equipment. Ageing of equipment is a natural process and is dealt with through proper maintenance, obsolescence management, upgrades and acquisition of new equipment without compromising safety. The MiG-21 and MiG-27 UPG aircraft of Indian Air Force will be phased out on completion of their Total Calendar Life / Total Technical Life by 2024.**

**(b) Phasing out of aircraft and their replacement with new generation aircraft depends upon national security, strategic objectives and operational requirements of the defence forces and is reviewed by the Government from time to time. This is a continuous process.**

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(c) Every aircraft which is launched by Indian Air Force is fully airworthy. Further, the details of aircraft accidents during last three years and the current year (upto 04.03.2018) are as follows:

Year	No. of aircraft accidents
2014-15	10
2015-16	06
2016-17	10
2017-18 (upto 04.03.2018)	05

(d) Every aircraft accident in the Indian Air Force is investigated by a Court of Inquiry (Col) to ascertain the cause of accident which may range from human error, technical defect, bird strike etc.

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