

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.66

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH JUNE, 2019

MISSING OF AN-32 AIRCRAFT

*66. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that AN-32 aircraft went missing recently in Arunachal sector and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of persons including crew members on board in the aircraft;
- (b) whether the said aircraft has been traced and if so, the details thereof along with the details of special squads deployed/assigned for rescue and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that AN-32 series of aircrafts are meeting with accidents frequently and if so, the details thereof along with the accidents occurred during the last four years;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to upgrade or phase out these aircrafts in a time-bound manner;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the number of aircrafts/choppers of Indian Air Force collapsed during the last four years?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66 FOR ANSWER ON 26.06.2019 REGARDING
'MISSING OF AN-32 AIRCRAFT'.**

(a) AN-32 aircraft of IAF was reported missing in Arunachal Pradesh on 03.06.2019 when it was proceeding on a sortie to an Advanced Landing Ground at Mechuka. A total of 13 people included 06 crew members and 07 passengers were on board.

(b) The wreckage of the crashed aircraft was located by IAF helicopters on 11.6.2019 at a location of 16 km north of Lipo in Arunachal Pradesh. Aircraft and helicopters of IAF, Indian Army and Indian Navy were deployed for the search and rescue operations. In addition, several teams comprising IAF and Army personnel as well as civilian mountaineers were tasked to locate the missing aircraft on ground and for rescue of the crew and passengers.

(c) AN-32 aircraft is the workhorse of the IAF transport fleet and has not met with frequent accidents. In the last four years, in addition to the crash on 03.06.2019, only one AN-32 was lost on 22.7.2016 while flying over the Bay of Bengal.

(d) & (e): A part of the AN-32 fleet has been upgraded with better avionics and airframe reinforcement. The remaining aircraft are planned to be upgraded in a phased manner. There is no plan to phase out AN-32 aircraft presently as they have useful residual life.

(f) The number of aircraft accidents in the last four years is given below:

Year	Fighter	Helicopter	Transporter	Trainer
2015-16	04	01	01	01
2016-17	06	02	-	01
2017-18	02	-	-	03
2018-19	07	02	-	02
2019-20 (till 20.6.2019	-	-	01	-
