

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1513
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th November, 2019

DISAPPEARANCE OF AIRCRAFT

1513. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding search operations undertaken in the aftermath of disappearance of IAF's transport aircraft AN-32 in July 2016 and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether any study has been carried out to find out similar cases of disappearance of aircraft in any part of the world in the past and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken to avert such happenings in future?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(श्री श्रीपाद नाईक)

(a) A massive search operation 'Op Talash' was launched for search of the missing aircraft. A total of 18 Indian Naval ships, 01 submarine and 08 Indian Coast Guard ships were deployed for search of the missing IAF aircraft. A total of 301 ship days of search were undertaken by these ships. In addition 14 Indian Navy (IN) aircraft, 06 Indian Coast Guard aircraft and 10 IAF aircraft were employed for the search wherein 290 sorties were flown, totalling approximately 1280 flying hours. Geological Survey of India vessel was also deployed to undertake sub-bottom profiling in the area and National Institute of Oceanography and Technology (NIOT) vessel was deployed to carry out sea bed search using Remotely Operated Vehicle to a depth of 3000m.

: 2 :

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad was requested for high-resolution satellite image of area around datum. Indigenous satellite with higher resolution were also used for satellite imagery. However, no concrete evidence with respect to missing IAF AN-32 aircraft had emerged.

(b) In the past 10 years, a total of nine aircraft have gone missing worldwide including six aircraft overseas. The cause of the accidents of any of these flights could not be ascertained due to lack of any evidence.

(c) All transport aircraft and helicopters of IAF undertaking maritime operations over Andaman and Nicobar area of Bay of Bengal have now been equipped with Underwater Locating Beacon (ULB).
