

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th DECEMBER, 2021

CRASH OF INDIAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS

3379. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at least three Indian Air Force helicopters have crash landed since August this year, killing and injuring multiple personnel;
- (b) if so, the details of similar incidents over the last five years including the details of personnel who were injured or lost their lives;
- (c) whether it is a fact that one Captain and Lieutenant Colonel lost their lives after their helicopter Rudra-WSI crash landed in Ranjeet Sagar Dam on 3rd August, 2021 and if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Rudra-WSI is not meant to fly over water at low-altitudes, and yet it was ordered to do regular sorties over the vast Ranjeet Sagar Dam and if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that the pilots were not given specialized training required to fly over water, if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Only two Indian Air Force Helicopters have crash landed since August this year. Details of all Helicopter Accidents in last five years in all three services are appended below:-

...2/-

Date of Accident	Type of Helicopter	Number of persons killed/injured	Service
8 th Dec 2021	Mi-17 V5	14/ Nil	Indian Air Force
18 th Nov 2021	Mi-17 Helicopter	Nil/ 01	Indian Air Force
21 st Sep 2021	Cheetah	02/ Nil	Indian Army
3 rd Aug 2021	ALH WSI	02/ Nil	Indian Army
25 th Jan 2021	ALH Weapon System Integrated (WSI)	1 /1	Indian Army
9 th May 2020	ALH	Nil/ 05	Indian Army
24 th Oct 2019	ALH	Nil/09	Indian Army
27 th Sep 2019	Cheetah	02 / Nil	Indian Army
10 th Apr 2019	Chetak	Nil/ Nil	Indian Navy
23 rd May 2018	Cheetah	Nil/02	Indian Air Force
3 rd April 2018	Mi-17 V5	Nil/Nil	Indian Air Force
6 th Oct 2017	Mi-17 V5	07/Nil	Indian Air Force
5 th Sep 2017	ALH	Nil/02	Indian Army
4 th Jul 2017	ALH	03 /Nil	Indian Air Force
15 th Mar 2017	Cheetah	Nil/Nil	Indian Air Force

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Lt Col A S Bath and Capt Jayant Joshi lost their lives after their helicopter Rudra-WSI crash landed in Ranjeet Sagar Dam on 3rd August 2021. There is no restriction on the helicopter flying over water. However, low flying over water needs specific authorisation. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the crash.

(e) The training has been structured to meet the operational requirements. However, operations over large expanse of water are restricted and generally a fraction of the total overall flying. Nevertheless, all recommendations of the Court of Inquiry are implemented to avoid recurrence of accidents.
