



रक्षा मंत्री
भारत
MINISTER OF DEFENCE
INDIA

DO No.6 (13)/2010/D (Air-II)/303-F/FTS/RM/10

7th September, 2010

Dear Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar,

This has reference to your letter dated 17th March, 2010 expressing concern about the increasing loss of lives in peace time operations in our Armed Forces, especially in aviation and seeking swift measures for modernization of aviation platforms and specifically that of training platforms.

2. The matter has been got examined. Although the Kiran trainer jets are old, every aircraft is checked to establish serviceability before flights. As part of the replacement and modernization of trainer aircrafts the intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) and Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) have been planned as suitable replacements for the Kiran & HPT-32 training aircraft. The Hawk AJT has already been inducted in the IAF and training of pilots on this aircraft have commenced. Induction of the AJT has commenced since June, 2010 and is expected to be completed by 2012. Proposal for induction of Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) has also been initiated.

3. Various steps have also been initiated to provide adequate training to pilots to prevent accidents. These include increased use of simulators to practice procedures and emergency action, focused and realistic training with additional emphasis on critical aspects of mission, introduction of Crew Resource Management and Operational Risk Management to enable safe mission launches, Aviation Psychology course and introduction of Aerospace Safety capsules in the *ab initio* training. The training requirements and safety concerns of pilots are being pursued on high priority.

4. As part of the ongoing modernization process upgradation & replacement of existing equipment and induction of new technologies has been undertaken by the IAF. This includes aircrafts and ground equipment.

With regards

Yours Sincerely,

(A.K. Antony)

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Member of Parliament
211, North Avenue
New Delhi-110 001



17 March, 2010

Dear Shri Antony,

We write to you as a group of citizens who are deeply concerned about the increasing loss of life in peacetime operations in our Armed forces, especially in aviation.

As you are aware, last week in Hyderabad two young Naval aviators Cdr S. K. Maurya and Lt Cdr Rahul Nair perished in a crash of their HJT-16 mk II Kiran trainer.

The exact cause of their death will no doubt be ascertained by the Naval Enquiry. But for all of us, they join a list of Airforce and Navy aviators who have volunteered to serve their country and have died recently in peacetime flying – not due to enemy action or hostilities.

It is obvious that these fatalities are a direct or indirect consequence of our aviators being made to fly or being trained on aircraft such as the Kiran which are platforms that are almost 4 decades old. Worse still these bravehearts are being made to conduct modern missions and doctrine with equipment and support that are completely mismatched and inadequate to these missions (Eg these aerobatics teams).

We do understand that it is the Governments stated objectives to modernize the armed forces as was mentioned in the Presidents address. This is clearly an overdue statement of objective by the Government.

But we seek your personal attention to this vital issue of modernization of aviation platforms and specifically that of training platforms. With recent incidents the basic trainer HPT-32 and the Jet trainer Kiran have been grounded. The HAL-IJT project has slipped, the Hawk AJT is still to reach volumes. Training and Model Platforms are the cornerstone of preparedness for any Armed forces. But being compromised at the training and Platforms is causing so much loss of precious life – of young men who otherwise would've served the nation proudly in times of hostility. Whilst this is being played out in all three armed forces, it costs more lives in the Air force, because aviation is far more unforgiving of errors and flaws.

Sir, whilst many young men and women of India are ready to serve their country in the forces, it is the responsibility of all of us and especially those in Government such as you – to ensure that these young men and women who serve are given the best training inputs and equipment for their jobs. This is the beholden responsibility of the Government and especially the Raksha Mantri and we hope you will move swiftly on this.



We remain available to you to assist and help in any way.

Very truly yours,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Member of Parliament

Milind Deora
Member of Parliament

M. V. Mysura Reddy
Member of Parliament
Member - Standing Committee on Defence

K. B. Shanappa
Member of Parliament
Member - Standing Committee on Defence