

RAJYA SABHA  
RAISING OF MATTER WITH PERMISSION  
(Zero Hour Submission)

NOTICE OFFICE  
Dy. No.....  
Date & Time of  
Receipt.....

February 04, 2019

TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
RAJYA SABHA  
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

I wish to raise/renew my request to raise the following matter of urgent public importance in the Rajya Sabha on February 05, 2019.

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Subject: Need for a thorough and transparent inquiry into the crash of a HAL upgraded IAF Fighter in Bengaluru and consequent loss of life of two brave Air Warriors of the IAF

Synopsis of the matter: ATTACHED

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Name of the Member. RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

  
RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
Member of Parliament-Rajya Sabha

Signature .....

Division No. ....52.....

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### Explanatory Note

**Topic: Need for a thorough and transparent inquiry into the crash of a HAL upgraded IAF Fighter in Bengaluru and consequent loss of life of two brave Air Warriors of the IAF**

I draw your attention to the Indian Air Force aircraft crash at HAL Airport on 01 February 2019 in which two Indian Air Force test pilots, Squadron Leader Siddhartha Negi and Squadron Leader Samir Abrol lost their lives.

The aircraft had reportedly undergone an upgrade at HAL and the customer acceptance test was underway when the tragic accident occurred killing the two young IAF pilots.

Sir, the Aircraft was not being flown by ordinary pilots, they were specialists and trained Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) pilots - The Top Guns of Indian Air Force's Air Warriors. It is therefore extremely necessary to conduct a thorough and transparent inquiry into this.

I urge the Government to ensure that families of these Air Warriors are fully supported and cared for financially and in all other ways.

This air crash comes in the backdrop of the Indian Air Force Chief- Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa's statement recently that the Indian Air Force's efforts to support HAL has affected its fighting capabilities. He said that the IAF has made concessions for HAL, and questioned if the enemy would make any concession for IAF when faced in a battle

Many brave air-warriors have lost their lives in such similar test flights, and while a Court of Inquiry has been announced by HAL, the Government must make it perfectly clear that accountability for these mishaps must be fixed.

Lastly, regardless of the outcome of the Court of Inquiry, we owe it to the families of the many IAF air warriors who have lost their lives in these test air crashes to take measures that put the prime focus on ensuring that HAL is strengthened to be more technologically



capable, accountable and responsive for its products and services to men and women of the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Army who fly them.

I also appeal to those in the political class who have dithered in the modernization of our combat fleets for over a decade whilst they bought helicopters for VIPs - to not obstruct the modernization anymore to score political points. Doing so would be to put our brave young aviators at risk unrelated to the enemy or combat mission.

It is our collective political duty to ensure that our brave combat aviators fly the latest aircraft and not continue to fly 35 and 40-year old aircraft to fulfil their missions in peace and war for our Nation