

under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources has been constituted to monitor/review the progress of Technical Assistance implementation and provide necessary guidance for successful implementation of Technical Assistance. The first meeting of the High Level Standing Committee was held on 20th November, 2008.

Contractual employees at airports in Gujarat

108. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the State Government of Gujarat Contract Labour Board's decision taken in the year 2001 in the matter of General Motors who were authorized to employ contract labour with a condition that workers will be paid wages (basic, DA and other allowances) as well as other facilities such as uniform, shoes, canteen, bonus, leave benefits, etc. similar to permanent workers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the contractual workers at various airports in Gujarat are not paid wages and other facilities as mentioned above in spite of clear-cut order of Labour and Employment Department of the State Government of Gujarat, date 16th July, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India outsources works of sporadic nature which are carried out through engagement of contract workers. These workers are being paid the prescribed minimum wages and other statutory benefits as per the notification of the Appropriate Government under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act.

Air services in the country

109. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air services in North India, East India and North East India;

(b) the plans to strengthen these services in near future;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

(d) the likely impact on the overall prosperity of those regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) All the operational airports in the North, East and North-East India are air linked with the scheduled air services, the details of which are as follows:

North India (as per FIR boundary)

Agra, Allahabad, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dharmashala, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Gwalior, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kanpur, Khajuraho, Kullu, Leh, Lucknow, Pathankot, Shimla, Srinagar, Thoise, Varanasi and Udaipur.

East India (as per FIR boundary)

Bhubaneswar, Gaya, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi and Port Blair.

North-East India (as per FIR boundary)

Agartala, Aizwal, Bagdogra, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Guwahati, Imphal, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong and Silchar.

(b) to (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. No assessment has been made on the whole impact of these services on the overall prosperity of the region.

Arrangements to tackle fog

110. SHRI B. J. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the aviation industry has worked out some measures to tackle fog problems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the airlines have developed some standby arrangements for passengers due to cancelled or delayed flights; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assessment of aerodrome operators' and airlines preparation to tackle the situation at airports due to fog is reviewed prior to the setting of winter season which include training of pilots, timely information to passengers, amenities, etc. CAT III B landing system has been installed at Delhi Airport including at new runway. Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System have also been installed at Delhi airport.

(c) and (d) Various steps are taken by the airlines regarding arrangements for passengers due to cancellation/delayed flights such 'as advance information to passengers about rescheduling of flights due to fog. In case of cancellation, passengers are given option to either take full refund or avail next available flight. In case of delay beyond two hours, light refreshment is also being provided to the passengers.

Luggage theft at airports

111. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of complaints have been received by Government from passengers regarding theft of their belongings at the airports;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government on their complaints;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some employees of various airlines have been found guilty of stealing passengers' belongings;