

Statement-IV

New projects proposed to be taken up in the State in the near future:

- (i) Kishangarh - A MoU has been signed between AAI and State Govt. for taking over the airstrip and developing into a full-fledged airport for operation of AIR type of aircraft.
- (ii) Bikaner - Additional land requirement projected to the State Govt. for development of Civil Enclave.
- (iii) Paladi - M/s. Rajasthan Aerosports Club Pvt. Ltd. have been accorded in principle approval for construction of a airport under private / public category.

Remuneration to travel agents by foreign airlines

289. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently issued letter to foreign airlines asking them to explain reasons for not giving commission or remuneration to travel agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to discontinuation of commission to agents by foreign airlines, the travel agents have boycotted booking of tickets; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue between foreign airlines and travel agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with certain foreign airlines regarding the issue of reduction of agency commission by some foreign airlines to zero percent with a view to ascertain whether its adoption in India is compatible with the IATA Resolution on the subject and whether it is appropriate in the Indian context to ask travel agents to charge transaction fees from customers instead of receiving commissions from the airlines.

(c) and (d) This is a matter that the Associations of travel agents negotiate with the concerned airlines. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation will try to facilitate early resolution of this dispute.

Financial Crisis of Air India

290. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India is running into financial crisis and has recently announced that salaries to its employees would be given after 15 days of the due date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a step of the Air India has exposed the credibility of the airlines which is running into losses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure payment of salaries to its employees in time and also to take corrective steps to bring the Air India out of red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to liquidity crunch, Air India has deferred the salary payable in the month of June, 2009 to all its employees which will be paid by 15th July, 2009.

(c) No, Sir. Deferment of salary in Air India is only for the month of June, 2009. In view of worldwide economic slowdown, almost all airlines globally have resorted to cost cutting measures that include cuts in pay and cutback in employees to tackle the financial situation.

(d) The deferment of salary for the month of June, 2009 for 15 days is only a temporary measure in view of the present liquidity crunch in the airline. NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity infusion and provision of soft loans.

Safety measures for Civil Aviation

291. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet Secretary presided over a meeting of Committee on Security and anti-hijacking at civil airports to analyse aviation security scenario in the country following an incident of emergency landing of an Indigo aircraft at Delhi Airport on 1 February and hijacking scare;

(b) if so, whether Government has also instructed authorities concerned to act swiftly to make our skies safer;

(c) if so, whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also finalized reports on airports; and

{d} if so, what are concrete measures the Union and State Governments has taken for safety of civil aviation and also checking up of hijacking of airways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Cabinet Secretary presided over meetings with representatives of various organisations/committees involved in aviation security following the incident of emergency landing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To insure Security the following additional measures have been initiated:-

(i) Check Posts put by ASG/APSU at the approach road to airports for random checking of vehicles/persons/articles; (ii) All unattended articles to be reported and checked for IED etc; (iii) Enhanced surveillance/watch on land side and airside areas of airports; (iv) Perimeter Patrolling and