

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) On 1.3.2006 Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) entered into a contract with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd. to deploy 12 Dauphin Helicopters, compliant with Aviation Standard – 4 (AS-4) requirement, by 29.07.2006. However due to delay in making these helicopters AS-4 compliant, ONGC agreed to extend the time limit upto 31.07.2007. PHHL deployed the required number of AS-4 compliant helicopters by 31.12.2007.

(d) These Dauphin Helicopters needed major retrofit by the manufacturer to make them AS-4 compliant and subsequent certification by the French Regulatory Authorities before being deployed with ONGC.

(e) ONGC deducted liquidated damages Rs. 14.94 crore from the charter hire charges due to PHHL for the delay. The same has been contested by PHHL because such delay had occurred due to circumstances beyond the control of PHHL and ONGC has not suffered any operational loss as PHHL continued to provide helicopters under old contract.

Plan for VRS/ERS in Civil Aviation Sector

3358. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total number of employees working in the civil aviation sector; and
- (b) whether Government has any plan of retrenchment/Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) Early Retirement Scheme (ERS) for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) There are approximately 52,042 employees working in the civil aviation sector in the attached/autonomous/public sector organisations under this Ministry.

(b) There are no such proposals in the above organisations.

Status of Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport

3359. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar;
- (b) the figure of air passengers who travelled through Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport in the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) by when this airport named after this freedom fighter would get all facilities like Delhi/Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (c) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. At this airport, construction of a New