

- (a) whether the increasing number of private airlines have strained the existing facilities at most of the airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to cope up with the increase in the number of flights, passengers amenities and to facilitate timely landings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The unprecedented growth in civil aviation sector has thrown up challenges for airport infrastructure, specially at busy metro airports. Upgradation of Airport Infrastructure is a continuous process and is undertaken taking into consideration the growth rate, availability of land, availability of resources, socio-economic considerations and economic feasibility. Following steps have been taken to improve airport infrastructure both in air side as well city side in the country:

- (i) Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured through joint venture route. Joint Venture Companies are undertaking the upgradation/development of these airports at an estimated cost of Rs.8975 crores (first phase) (completion in March 2010) and Rs.9802 crores (completion in December 2012) respectively.
- (ii) Two new Greenfield 'state-of-art' airports have become operational at Hyderabad and Bangalore in the year 2008.
- (iii) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is undertaking development/modernisation of Kolkata and Chennai airports at an estimated cost of Rs.1942.51 crores and Rs.1808 crores, respectively.
- (iv) Development of airports in North East Region is being taken up by AAI on priority basis.
- (v) Besides, AAI is also undertaking modernisation of following 35 non-metro airports. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu & Pune Airport.

In addition to the above, CNS/ATM facilities are also being provided in collaboration with ISRO, Bangalore. Upgradation and installation of latest navigation aids like Instrument Landing System (ILS), Doppler Very High Omni Range (DVOR) & Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), Flight Data Processing System (FDPS), Remote Control Air Ground System (RCAG), Primary and Secondary Radars, etc. is also undertaken, as a continuous process.

Ragging in Schools and colleges

*54. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of directions issued by the Supreme Court for checking ragging in various schools and colleges in the country, ragging has taken many lives during the month of March, 2009;

(b) if so, whether the University Grants Commission has taken a number of steps and has urged all schools and universities that violation of rules may result in penal action, stoppage of grants and even derecognition of institutions;

(c) if so, to what extent these warnings have helped;

(d) whether any Ordinance was issued by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps and measures taken by Government thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, a case involving death of a medical student was reported in the month of March, 2009, as a consequence of an incident of ragging at the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission has notified its regulations on the Curbing of the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions. These regulations are comprehensive and provide for a number of punitive and prohibitive measures including stopping of grants by UGC and also withdrawal of affiliation/recognition or other privileges conferred, if higher education institutions fail to comply with any of the provision of regulations or fail to curb ragging effectively. The regulations also require higher education institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. An anti-ragging toll free "Helpline" has been made operational by UGC with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and some regional languages to begin with, for helping victims of ragging besides facilitating effective immediate coordinated action by all concerned. The above steps taken by UGC are likely to considerably curb the menace of ragging. The UGC Regulations however are not applicable to schools which impart education upto 12th standard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Fall in Inflation Rate

*55. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Ministers of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of inflation fell consistently during March-April this year but there was no corresponding reduction in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The fall in year-on-year inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in March-April 2009 was an extension of the