

(c) The following security procedures are followed in issuing these AEPs:—

1. All the Airport Operators to whom this authority is delegated are made responsible for the temporary AEPs issued by them.
2. One time entry permits shall not be issued unless proper identity of the person to whom such permit is issued, is established.
3. Only Indian nationals on behalf of the airport operator are authorized to issue these Temporary AEPs.
4. These passes can only be issued to Indian nationals.
5. These temporary AEPs are issued only after ascertaining the need and purpose to access the airport premises.

Non-filling of vacant posts in BCAS

868. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top posts in Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) remained vacant this year despite danger from terrorist groups like Jaish-e- Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, etc. targeting the major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not filling these posts on priority basis;

(c) what kind of stop-gap arrangements have been made during the vacancies; and

(d) what steps have been taken to beef-up security at the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) to (c) The post of Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation) [COSCA], Bureau of Civil Aviation Security fell vacant on 31.01.2010. consequent upon the superannuation of the then COSCA. Steps to fill up this post were initiated from August, 2009. However, this post could not be filled up by a regular incumbent due to procedural delays despite best efforts of the Ministry. A Joint Secretary in the Ministry has been assigned the additional charge of COSCA, until a regular incumbent is appointed. Action to position the two Addl. COSCA that were vacated late as in hand. In the interim there is an officiating arrangement.

(d) The Government have taken following measures to strengthen safety and security arrangements at the airports that include roadblocks at approach roads, checks for IEDs, surveillance by several methods, perimeter patrolling, secondary security checks and deployment of Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs).

Development of Tirupati airport

869. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tirupati airport is likely to be developed into an international airport; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Government has approved the proposal to declare Tirupati airport as an International airport subject to the condition that the airport will be made operational only after requisite facilities have been put in place.

Out of total requirement of land measuring 718 acres, 293 acres has been handed over by the State Government to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Extension of runway and allied works is subject to handing over of balance land free from all encumbrances by the State Government. Presently, the project estimate is Rs. 174 crores and includes:—

- (i) Construction of new terminal building of cater 700 passengers (500 domestic + 200 international).
- (ii) Construction of new apron and link taxiway to park 4 nos. aircrafts (AB-321/AB-320/B-737-900W)

Airports unsafe for landing

870. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the airports in the country are unsafe for landing; and

(b) if so, the names of those airports and what steps are being taken to ensure safe landing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) There is no aerodrome which can be termed as unsafe.

(b) Does not arise.

Non-availability of qualified technical personnel at DGCA

871. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) has informed Government that India continues to remain in Category I of the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment Programme;

(b) whether the FAA has also raised its concern about availability of qualified technical personnel in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to place qualified technical personnel in DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has informed that India not only continues to meet FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) category-I status but is also considered to be a Role Model for other nations in Asian aviation environment.