

Unavailability of weather radars with ATCs

875. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Meteorological Department sends the weather data to airports which is then followed by the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) for guiding aircraft;
- (b) the normal time that ATC takes to feed the weather data into their systems;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that ATCs doesn't have weather radars of their own as has been the case in other countries; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) It is done immediately on receipt.
- (c) In India, the weather radars are procured, installed, manned and maintained by India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- (d) It is as per the existing guidelines and distribution of work.

Procurement of accident investigation kits

876. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is yet to procure accident investigation kits that are critical for crash probes, despite funds had already been allocated for the same;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) Investigation equipments like camera, GPS, Compass, Magnifying mirror, small tool kit, face mask and other necessary equipment required for investigation are already available with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and accident investigations have been effectively carried out using these equipment. However, procurement and upgradation of such equipment is a continuing process and requests for purchase and upgradation of equipment are considered as per the laid down procedures.

Branding make over of Air India

877. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the state owned carrier Air India has proposed to hire an International consultancy firm to give it a branding make over for the forth coming Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether Australian firm Cato Punell Partners has been shortlisted for the exercise which may cost as much as 1.6 million dollars;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether tie-ups of this sort will give an image to Air India and provide unmatched flying experience to the participating officials and athletes on board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since NACIL (Air India) has been designated as the official carrier of the Commonwealth Games, M/s. Cato Punell Partners have been appointed by NACIL to revitalize its brand identity and the fees payable to them would be around USD 1,612,750 plus taxes.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The tie-up will help developed an identity and broader visual language that will allow NACIL to be seen as meaningful partner to the Games. It will also assist in designing and constructing State of art international and domestic lounges at Terminal 3 that would reflect the Air India of the future. It would also develop a migration strategy and design to continue the momentum to revitalize the Air India brand beyond the common Wealth Games.

Critical airports in the country

878. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how may airports in the country have been marked as Critical Airports;

(b) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently sent teams to these airports in the wake of Mangalore accident;

(c) if so, their observations for each airports; and

(d) the steps being taken to enhance safety at the airports?

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

(a) 11 airports have been identified as Critical airports from flight operations point of view.

(b) and (c) Inspection of these Airports is being carried out by team of officials from Directorate General of Civil Aviation and reports are being forwarded to the respective aerodrome Operators.

(d) Various steps have been initiated to enhance the safety at the aerodromes, which include (i) provision of Runway End Safety Area; (ii) ensure proper marking on runway; (iii) proper maintenance of basic strip and ensuring frangibility criteria; (iv) periodic calibration of Nav aids; (v) maintenance of runway surface within appropriate friction level; (vi) removal of obstructions and proper marking and lighting of permissible obstacles; and (vii) safety risk assessment in respect of non-compliance.