

Maintenance base in UAE

1650. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India (AI) is to set up maintenance base in the United Arab Emirates (UAE);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of such base set up by AI in other countries as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) Air India does not have any plans to set up a maintenance base in UAE or in any other foreign country. However, Air India has positioned its technical personnel in Dubai, Dammam, Hong Kong, Jeddah, London, New York, Newark and Riyadh for the transit and turn around checks of its aircraft operating through these stations.

Power failure at Mumbai airport

1651. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai airport is facing frequent power failure at peak hours;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that over a month ago the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had written to Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL) about the poor condition of cables connecting the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) radar and other installations at airport;
- (d) the reasons for not taking remedial measures by the MIAL to ensure the constant power supply at airport; and
- (e) by when the work of replacing the cables is likely to be completed?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Few cable were cut during the construction activities. However, the same were immediately repaired/replaced. Utmost care is taken to minimise damage during construction activities and whenever any damages takes place, cable is replaced by a new cable immediately.

User development fee at Trivendrum airport

1652. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has any plan to change User Development Fee (UDF) from the international passengers at the Trivandrum International Airport in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has opposed the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to charge User Development Fee to Rs.755/- per embarking international passenger.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala has filed an appeal before Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal (AERAAT) to set aside AERA order No.01/2010-11 dated 05.05.2010. AERAAT is an independent quasi-judicial authority, which is free to take a final decision in this matter.

Demand for UPAIE for saving AI

1653. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Platform of Air India Employees (UPAIE) had met the Prime Minister in the month of May this year seeking his intervention to save the Air India (AI) which is suffering huge losses since the last three years; and