

(b) if so, the details about the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to reinstate and introduce more services connecting airports in Kerala?

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

(a) to (c) In last three years, with a view to bring about synergies in the operations of flights operated by Air India and its subsidiaries, it has introduced restructured/withdrawn some of its flights from/to Kerala. The flights on Cochin - Goa, Cochin - Coimbatore, Calicut - Goa, Calicut - Trichy, Calicut - Ras-al-Khaimah / Fujairah and Trivandrum - Trichy have been withdrawn due to poor load factor and cash losses. While Cochin - Agatti flight would be made operational soon, Air India Express operates services on Cochin-Doha - Bahrain, Cochin - Kuwait, Cochin - Muscat, Calicut - Muscat and Calicut - Doha/Bahrain sectors which were operated by Air India. Flights on Cochin - Bangalore, Calicut - Chennai and Trivandrum - Bangalore sector, which had been withdrawn for some period, have been re-introduced. Air India does not presently have plans to introduce more flights out of Kerala due to capacity constraints.

SEBI's proposal for separation of posts of Chairman from MD/CEO

2434. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering a proposal to separate the post of Chairman from that of Managing Director (MD)/CEO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has opposed this proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) SEBI has received suggestions stating that the position of Chairman and that of the Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the listed companies should be segregated.

(b) The Corporate Governance Voluntary Guidelines 2009 brought out by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs inter – alia states that a clear demarcation of the roles and responsibilities of the Chairman of the Board and that of the Managing Director / CEO promotes balance of power and prevents unfettered decision making power with a single individual. Further requirement to segregate role of Chairman and CEO is also prevalent in developed jurisdictions including USA, UK and France. The Primary Market Advisory Committee of SEBI has taken note of these developments.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) SCOPE has argued that since the public sector companies in India have been structured through a checks and balance system of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Central Vigilance Commission, Government Audit and Committee on Public Undertakings, there is no need to separate the role of Chairman and Managing Director. According to SCOPE, any such change in the basic structure of the organization may adversely affect the performance of public sector enterprises.

Cases of cloning of credit cards

‡2435. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of withdrawing money by cloning of credit cards or making fake cards have come into notice of Government.

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to impose ban on the instruments used for making of such cloned/fake credit cards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) RBI has reported that some instances have come to their notice of withdrawing money by cloning of credit cards/fake cards.

RBI had issued a circular to all commercial banks in June, 2006, advising them to take various preventive measures to combat frauds relating to skimming or duplicating of credit cards. The

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.