

statutory posts. The details of posts filled up with the name of the Officer, post, Department/Ministry and the date of joining are given as under:

(i) Shri Yashwant S. Bhave, Chairperson, IAS (Retd), MH 1972 Cadre joined from 01.08.2009.

(ii) Shri M. P. Vijay Kumar, former Executive Director of Air India, joined from 11.03.2010.

(iii) Shri Sandeep Prakash, IRS (C & CE.-1990), joined from 15.05.2009 on deputation basis.

(iv) Dr. Reena Sethi, Deputy Chief, Department of Personnel & Training, joined from 17.05.2010 on deputation basis.

The following posts (no. of posts given in bracket) have been sanctioned for Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal (AERAAT): Chairperson (1) and Member (2)

In accordance with Section 19 (1) of the AERA Act, 2008, Central Government have appointed Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayat, Chairman, Competition Appellate Tribunal as Chairman and Shri Rahul Sarin & Ms. Pravin Tripathi, Members, Competition Appellate Tribunal as Members of the Appellate Tribunal w.e.f. 03.06.2010 on additional assignment basis.

(b) No officer, who has been appointed in the AERA/Appellate Tribunal, has so far left the AERA/Appellate Tribunal.

(c) AERA/Appellate Tribunal has been established through enactment of the AERA Act, 2008. These are separate independent regulatory entities empowered under the act. The functions and powers of AERA/Appellate Tribunal have been defined in the said Act.

#### **Starting of aviation services by Premier Airways Ltd.**

¶141. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Premier Airways Limited, Chennai has sought No Objection Certificate to start civil aviation services in India;

(b) if so, by when Government received the company's application in this regard and the details of action taken on it so far;

(c) whether No Objection Certificate has been issued to Premier Airways Limited;

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¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the date on which same was issued; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when this certificate will be issued?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The application of M/s. Premier Airways Ltd. for grant of initial No Objection Certificate (NOC) to start Scheduled Air Transport (Passenger) services was received on 16.12.2005. On examination of the proposal, it has been observed that company does not fulfill the criteria required as per Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR). Hence, initial NOC has not been issued.

#### **Cancellation of domestic and international flights**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that owing to cancellation of over hundreds of domestic and international flights during last week of May, 2010, airlines raised their fares by 30-40 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government allowed exploitation of passengers and black marketing by airlines, adding insult to injury of passengers;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what is the compensation paid to passengers for the inconvenience caused to them due to cancellation of flights?

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

(a) and (b) Airfares were comparatively on higher side during the month of May 2010 across the network of various airlines due to peak season rush.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Air fares are not regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

(e) In case of cancellation of flights by airlines, they are required to refund airfares to the passengers in accordance with Civil Aviation Requirement Section 3 Series M Part II issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

#### **Strike by Air India Employees**

143. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: