

endeavour of the Central Government to ensure that all approvals and clearances are given in a timely manner. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation has been constituted to monitor the progress of proposals granted 'in principle' approval for setting up of Greenfield airports.

(c) and (d) Necessary action for project development, including acquisition of land, is taken by the Promoters of the new airports with the help of the respective State Government(s).

### **Appointment of officers in BCAS**

†2952. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has only one Assistant Commissioner, who sits at Chennai for the security of 16 airports in the southern India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is formulating any plan to appoint more officers for the security of these airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether any time-limit has been fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Regional office of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) in Chennai has sanctioned posts of one Senior Deputy Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation), two Assistant Commissioners of Security (Civil Aviation) alongwith subordinate staff. At present, there are one Assistant Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation), one Security Officer and other subordinate staff posted in this regional office.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Action has already been taken to fill up the remaining posts. It has also been decided to open one more regional office in southern India at Hyderabad, which will have the jurisdiction of the airports in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The new regional office would have one Deputy Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation), two Assistant Commissioners of Security (Civil Aviation) and other subordinate staff. Action has been initiated to operationalise the new regional office.

### **Helicopter services connecting Darjeeling with Hilly areas**

†2953. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider to introduce helicopter services between

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bagdogra and Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sikkim for connecting Darjeeling with hill areas and to facilitate the tourists; and

(b) whether Government will take any positive steps to construct a separate helipad in Darjeeling and Sikkim for the helicopters to take off from Bagdogra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has carried out a joint survey alongwith West Bengal Tourism Department officials for starting helicopter services to Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Mirik by the State Government. A report in this regard has been submitted to the State Government by the PHHL.

(b) There is no proposal with Airports Authority of India (AAI) for construction of helipads at Darjeeling (West Bengal). However, in case of Sikkim, AAI is constructing a Greenfield Airport at Pakyong which is likely to be commissioned by June, 2012, from where helicopters can also operate.

#### **Cancellation of flights**

2954. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several flights to and from Delhi and other airports in the country were cancelled, delayed and disrupted due to technical, fog and change in direction of winds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss suffered and the number of passengers affected thereby during the last two year, airport-wise;

(d) whether the affected passengers have been provided any compensation by the concerned airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 200 flights diverted from Delhi airport due to fog in 2010. 40 flights were delayed, 4 flights were diverted, 17 flights were cancelled at Guwahati airport and 147 flights were delayed/diverted/cancelled due to fog/technical/change in direction of winds from Lucknow airport in 2010.

237 flights were delayed/diverted from other airports due to fog and poor visibility in 2010, 113 flights were delayed/cancelled due to technical in 2010 and 7 flights were affected due to change in direction of winds in 2010 from airports other than Delhi.

(c) to (e) Due to visibility falling below operating minima during fog, many a time flight get delayed/cancelled with consequential basis. Some airlines do not maintain