

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Shortage of air traffic management services in airport

776. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the wake of recent air tragedy in Mangalore airport, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has admitted to shortage in the air traffic management services like ATC and communication, navigation and surveillance wings;

(b) if so, what steps are stipulated that these shortages are wiped out through deploying trained personnel and installing State-of-the-art equipment/gadgets, so that, increasing air traffic becomes risk free; and

(c) whether any study has been made about the civil work aspects of runways at airports, so that, they meet the international standards and are of universally accepted specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the current year 343 and 171 direct recruitments have been made in the ATM and CNS directorates respectively. Action to fill the remaining direct recruitment vacancies in various grades of ATM and CNS Directorates has been initiated and all such vacancies will be filled at the earliest. The promotional vacancies are filled by holding DPCs regularly. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is already utilizing the services of retired ATCOs, wherever possible. 25 such persons have been engaged.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains full-fledged directorates like Aero Planning and Engineering in-house. AAI has a dedicated Directorates on Aero-planning and Engineering in-house, which is responsible for planning, designing, constructing and maintaining of all operational services including runways. The Directorates undertake provide studies on best practices to the world and accordingly runways are designed and constructed as per ICAO manuals and international best practices and specifications.

Airports at Patna and Jammu

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

(a) whether Government has evaluated that some airports including the ones at Patna and Jammu are very critical and dangerous for landing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these airports are not having rooms for error detecting and emergency;

(c) whether Government has planned to construct alternate sites for standard size airports and asked both the State Governments to provide land and assistance to secure safe landing of aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. 11 airports were identified as Critical Airports from flight operations point of view including Patna and Jammu airports. These are operationally safe however, they are considered critical from point of view of constraints existing in and around the airport.

(b) No, Sir. The flight operations at these airports take place with operational constraints which include the load penalty on airline operators.

(c) and (d) At Jammu airport, runway extension up to 2450m (408m extension) has been planned, subject to land transfer from Army/Government of J&K.

In respect of Patna airport, Government of Bihar has proposed alternate site for Patna airport at Bihata Airport (IAF). AAI had conducted preliminary feasibility study and the report has been submitted to Government of Bihar in October, 2009.

Civil Aviation requirements for promoting air travel services

778. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for Scheduled regional air transport service with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific regions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide air services to tourist destinations to boost tourism in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3, Air Transport Series 'C', Part VIII stipulating minimum requirements for grant of permit to operate scheduled regional air transport service.

The scheduled regional airlines will primarily operate in a designated region and will not be permitted to operate on the trunk routes indicated in the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

The CAR is available on DGCA website www.dgca.nic.in.