

(c) if not, whether Government is having any agenda to privatize these two airlines; and

(d) by when Government is going to restore *status-quo ante*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) With the opening up of the aviation sector, the declining market, operating and financial performance of the airline posed a serious threat to the future survival of the two airlines on a stand alone basis with to the two airlines competing with each other on same routes. It was thus felt that in an increasing consolidating global aviation environment, where critical mass/size is a key success factor, combining the two State owned airlines into a single merged entity would equip them to survive and prosper amidst fierce global and domestic competition as it, and would also provide an opportunity to leverage and synergise their combined asset and capital base to build a stronger sustainable business. This was first discussed in a Committee of Secretaries, whose recommendations were then taken up by a GoM before approval of the Cabinet.

(b) The new company formed after merger of Air India and Indian Airlines viz. National Aviation Company of India Limited had incurred losses in the last three years due to high fuel prices, prevalent economic recession, severely low yields and load factors and hence no dividend has been declared.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Vacant posts in BCAS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is functioning headless and the sensitive posts including Commissioner have remained vacant for last several months;

(b) if so, the details of vacant posts in the BCAS, grade-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of these officers, tasks like holding mock exercise to test the efficacy of contingency plans and operational preparedness of various agencies are not undertaken regularly;

(d) what are the reasons that security of aircrafts are left unaware; and

(e) the action Government proposes to fill these sensitive vacancies urgently in view of several mishaps taken place at various airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. BCAS is having its regular Commissioner and Additional Commissioner.

(b) Details of vacant posts in the BCAS:

Joint Commissioner-1, Additional Commissioner-1, Senior Deputy Commissioner- 4, Deputy Commissioner- 4, Deputy Director (Technical)-1, Controller of Explosives-3, Assistant Commissioner-11, Security Officer-6, Technical Assistant-4, Sub Inspector-7, Asstt. Sub Inspector-7, Head Constable-2, Constable-19, Jr. Accountant-1, Steno Gr. D-4, Jr. Clerk-4, Daftry-1, M.T. Driver-4, Despatch Rider-4. All possible efforts are made for filling up these posts.

(c) No, Sir. Mock exercises and audits and inspections of airports are being conducted regularly.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Administrative actions like finalisation of Recruitment Rules, advertisement/ re-advertisement of vacancies, Scrutiny of applications, selection of suitable candidate(s) etc., in consultation with DoPT, UPSC, Ministry of Law and Justice etc. are taken up for filling up these posts.

Decongestion at CSIA, Mumbai

793. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flight movement from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) per day during the last three years;

(b) whether this airport is the busiest airport in the country today;

(c) whether the airport has got only one runway; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to decongest the airport by developing an alternative airport in Mumbai and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of average daily flight movement from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), Mumbai is in the year 2007-08 (666), 2008-09 (653) and 2009-10 (656).

(b) CSIA, Mumbai is one of the busiest airport in the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. CSIA, Mumbai has two intersecting runways. However, considering the fact that even after completion of the restructuring and modernisation works at CSIA, Mumbai in year 2012, the airport would be capable to handle only 40 million passenger per annum. The Government of India has granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield International Airport at Navi Mumbai in the year 2007 to Government of Maharashtra. Thereafter, Government of Maharashtra has selected City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited as nodal agency for development of the airport.