

**Upgradation of Khajuraho Airport in M.P.**

†1411. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a plan to upgrade Khajuraho Airport to international standard;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the State Government has provided land to National Airport Authority free of cost for this purposes; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government as regards that land?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided 376.09 acres of land free of cost at Khajuraho airport to provide better infrastructure and international standards of passenger facilities at this airport like extension of runway of 7500 ft. for B 737-800/AB-320 type of aircraft, construction of apron, link taxi track and installation of CAT-I approach lighting system on runway 19 side and are in use. Work related to construction of New Terminal Building to cater 500 passengers and car park have also been initiated with expected date of completion by June, 2011.

**AI Flights operated by unwell pilots**

1412. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is forcing its unwell pilots to operate flights in violation of international norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) have also brought to the notice of Air India, the gross violations committed by Air India management; and

(d) if so, the action taken on the complaints of IPG so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has carried out meeting with the IPG and discussed various issues. Action is being taken on the issues raised during the meeting.

**Resentment over Appointment of COO of AI-Express**

1413. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Commercial Pilots Association have questioned the appointment of the Chief Operating Officers (COO) of Air India (AI) Express, since the man is with doubtful credentials and questionable integrity and for these reasons was removed by Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) from the flight safety posts;

(b) whether newly appointed COO would be in a position to help in turnaround of AI; and

(c) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. No such resentment has been officially expressed. However, the Board of Air India has reviewed the appointment of COO and decided to cancel it.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The COO would be required for overseeing operational performance of the Company, including Engineering, inflight, Commercial, operations and flight related safety issues.

**Rise in prices of food articles and manufactured goods**

†1414. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation for common man in the country is too high to bear;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rise in the prices of manufactured items has been found to be higher than food items in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.