

been reviewed with all the concerned agencies. A Coordination Committee shall monitor the start up clearances to manage and prioritize the movement of flights during fog. Meteorological Department shall be providing timely forecast of fog and the trend on the forecast regarding visibility so as to make it available on the internet site. Indian Airlines has set up a Central Coordination Cell to monitor for situation on all India basis and a system of Flight Information Dissemination through the Call Centre is operational at Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore. SMS service and broadcasts through TV/FM Channel are being introduced on all India basis for giving information regarding delays, rescheduling, cancellation. Air India has prepared a contingency plan for ensuring timely movement of flights during Winter Season. Private Airlines are also taking measures to manage operations during fog to mitigate any inconvenience to passengers.

(b) and (c) Air India has rescheduled its all long haul west bound flights to omit Delhi in both directions and operate directly to/from Mumbai between 23-11-2004 and 04-02-2005. Arrangements have been made to transport passengers from/to Delhi through shuttle services. Indian Airlines has drawn a contingency plan to handle dislocation/disruption of flights due to fog in winter season. These measures have been taken to minimise dislocation/disruption of flights and inconvenience to passengers during winter season.

Mandatory Inspection of Aircraft

1153. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Airlines plane bound for Mumbai recently hit a tractor and took off without the mandatory inspection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the responsible officers who did not adhere to the mandatory inspection after this incident thus endangering the lives of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines A-300 aircraft VT-EHC

while operating flight IC-598 from Goa to Mumbai on 06.11.2004 was involved in a ground incident. After taxi clearance was given, the aircraft started rolling and the nose wheel tyre came in contact with the tractor tyre attached to ground power unit (GPU), which had not cleared the area. Aircraft was immediately stopped and the inspection of the Nose wheel area of the aircraft was carried out by Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) of Indian Airlines and no physical damage was observed. The aircraft was thereafter released for flight.

(c) All mandatory inspections on the aircraft after incident as required were duly carried out by the departure engineer and the aircraft was found airworthy for further flight and at no stage safety of passengers were compromised. However, the engineer was warned to be more careful in future for failure of adhering to the standard departure guide-lines leading to this incident. Moreover, investigation of the incident by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is in progress.

Dilution of Government Equity in IA and AI

1154. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dilute their equity holding in both IA and AI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to strengthen the existing fleet of these carriers before going in for dilution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines proposal for 43 aircraft comprising 19 A-319, 4A-320 and 20A-321 manufactured by Airbus Industries with engines from