

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

CFM International was considered by the PIB in its meeting held on 10.11.2004. The net project cost is Rs. 10089 crores. Provision of Rs. 325 crores approved by Government towards equity enhancement has been considered in Indian Airlines proposal. In its meeting held on 24.11.2004, Air India Board has approved a revised fleet plan as per which the fleet size of Air India would be enhanced from present level of 34 aircraft to 74 aircraft by the year 2012/13. Air India Charters Limited has submitted a Project Report for the acquisition of 18 B737-800W aircraft for Government approval on 8.12.2004. No firm time frame can be indicated at this stage since the extant procedures for consideration of public investment proposals will have to be followed.

Recovery of dues from Travel Agents

1155. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that failure of Indian Airlines to ensure proper and timely remittance of dues has resulted in a blockage of huge amount, which runs into several crores of rupees, with the Travel Agents authorised by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on today;

(c) how much amount is outstanding against them for the last two years; and

(d) the details of steps taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The amount recoverable from defaulting agents is Rs. 5.86 crores as on 30th September, 2004. A Statement showing details is at Statement-I. (See below)

(c) and (d) The amount recoverable from defaulting agents for last 2 years i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04 is Rs. 1.68 crores. Details of these outstanding dues and steps taken to liquidate the amount are given in Statement-II.