

(a) whether passenger security and amenities are inadequate at the Ahmedabad International Airport;

(b) if not, whether CCTV's are operational at Terminal 1 and 2 of the Airport;

(c) whether a Central Enquiry Counter and Centralized phone enquiry is also not functional at the Airport;

(d) whether full details of flights are not regularly and promptly displayed at the terminals of the Airport; and

(e) the details of measures taken to remove all these deficiencies and to make the airport one of the best in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The CCTVs at Terminal-I (*i.e.* domestic) are operational and installation of CCTVs at Terminal-II (*i.e.* International) are in progress.

(c) At International Terminal, a common counter manned by Air India is functional. At Domestic Terminal the concerned airlines have their individual counters which are functional and accessible from the city side.

(d) No, Sir. The flight information display boards are available at the airport which are regularly updated by the respective airlines.

(e) The installation of CCTVs is under process at Terminal-II. Setting up of Central Inquiry System and Centralized Phone Inquiry System are under consideration of Airports Authority of India. Beautification of city side area has been undertaken. Provision of high capacity car parking and of two more passenger bridges for Terminal-II has been made. Measures to install Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) facility for checking counters in Terminal-II have been taken.

CAG's remarks on aircrafts purchase from Boeing Company

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

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has criticized the decision of Air India to spend Rs. 50,000 crore to buy 111 new aircrafts from Boeing Company of USA;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has paid hefty amount to Boeing Company for purchase of aircrafts especially when the rates offered to other international airlines was much lower;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would probe the matter through CBI and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per established procedure, the CAG has made certain observations to which the Government's replies are under examination by the CAG.

(c) Government has not paid any amount for purchase of aircraft. The aircraft are being purchased by Air India by raising loans.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c).

Purchase of aircrafts from Boeing Company

785. 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 purchasing aircrafts from Boeing Company, USA;

(b) if so, the details of terms of agreements and price, etc. of each aircraft;

(c) whether Government is aware that Boeing Company have sold aircrafts at cheaper rates to many countries than being sold to Air India; and

(d) if so, the comparative rates of aircrafts being sold to Air India *vis-a-vis* other countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Erstwhile Air India Limited had placed an order with M/s. Boeing on 30.12.2005 for purchase of 68 aircraft *viz.* 18XB737-800, 8XB777-200LR, 15XB777-300ER and 27XB787-8 at the estimated project cost of approximately Rs.34,000 crores. The agreement executed for these aircraft contains terms of the sale, which include among other things, aircraft specifications, prices and payment terms, delivery schedule, product support terms, legal clauses and insurance requirements etc. The aircraft deliveries commenced in October, 2006 and will continue till 2014. Till date 38 aircraft have been delivered.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Behaviour of airport staff

786. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air passengers at IGI Airport, Delhi are harassed lot due to mismanagement and rude behaviour of airport staff, mishandling of air baggages and stealing therefrom etc.;