

Visit of Chinese Prime Minister

†*118. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that immediately after the Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India, China started citing Indo-China border to be 2000 Km. long, which in fact is 3448 kilometres in length;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that large quantities of Chinese goods are illegally imported into India; and

(c) if so, Government's policy thereon/approach thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government has seen media reports to such effect. China disputes the International Boundary between India and China. China also regards the State of Jammu and Kashmir as a dispute that should be settled properly through dialogue between India and Pakistan. Government has conveyed to the Chinese side its clear and consistent position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India.

(b) and (c) Trade and economic relations are an important aspect of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between India and China. Bilateral trade between the two countries has increased from USD 2.9 billion in 2000 to USD 61.74 billion in 2010. During the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jaibao to India in December, 2010, the two sides discussed various measures to expand and diversify India-China bilateral trade.

Declining financial status of Air India

*119. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Air India in the domestic passenger traffic fell to the 4th rank, even below the low cost airline of IndiGo;

(b) if so, the justification for buying 111 new aircrafts costing Rs. 50,000 crore or so; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Air India has to take loans from the Corporation Bank for paying the salaries to the staff and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per DGCA's statistics for January, 2011, Air India's domestic market share stands at 4th place.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The average age of the aircraft in erstwhile airlines in 2003-04 was 14.7 years and some of its aircraft were nearly 25 years old. Use of old aircraft was resulting in higher fuel consumption, increased maintenance requirements, low schedule reliability, inferior passenger appeal and poor image. Erstwhile Air India/Indian Airlines had not inducted new aircraft since 1993-94. It was felt in 2003-04 that with the Indian air market growing at a significant pace and with new domestic and foreign carriers increasing their presence in Indian Market, it was imperative for erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines to induct capacity to cater to the growth requirements of the two airlines.

(c) An airline can raise short term loan to meet its working capital requirements that include salary etc. In February, 2011, Air India took a loan of Rs.200 crores from Corporation Bank as working capital to meet its obligations including salaries etc.

Terrorists trained in Pakistan

†*120. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pervez Musharraf, the ex-President of Pakistan, has accepted that during his Government, the terrorists of Pakistan were trained and sent to India;

(b) whether it is also fact that present Government of Pakistan is also following the same policy;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government of India against such move; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government has seen media reports on General Musharraf's statement that Pakistan trained militant underground groups to fight against India in Kashmir. These reports only confirm the veracity of what India has been repeatedly saying over the years.

(b) to (d) Terrorism emanating from territory under Pakistan's control remains a core concern for us. This is precisely why India has sought a firm and abiding commitment from Pakistan that it will not allow its territory and territory under its control to be used for the aiding and abetting of terrorist activity directed against India and for providing sanctuary to such terrorist groups. India has consistently stressed to its interlocutors the need for Pakistan to honour its commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner.

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