

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (g) There were certain allegations against the engineers of Airports Authority of India (AAI) on the issue of high "Base Price" of cement considered in the estimated cost of pavement works pertaining to Lucknow and Varanasi Airports. Detailed investigations were conducted by the Vigilance Department of AAI but *prima facie* no allegations were substantiated as no malafide was attributed to any of the AAI officials. However, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also undertaken investigation of this matter.

Outstanding dues of Air India

1569. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked Air India to clear the outstanding dues;

(b) if so, the total outstanding dues of Air India to various agencies;

(c) whether the management of Air India has since contemplated steps to clear the outstanding dues of various agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) dues against Air India Ltd. amounts to Rs. 720 crores as on 31.01.2011.

(b) The total outstanding dues of Air India as on 15.02.2011 to various agencies is Rs. 3050 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has released a further equity of Rs. 1200 crores in Air India which would be used by Air India for making payments to various agencies.

Aircrafts on lease by AI & IA

1570. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts taken on lease by Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) the conditions of taking these aircrafts on lease; and

(c) the full details of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Air India and its subsidiary companies have taken 44 aircraft on lease, of which 15 aircraft are on 'Sale and Lease Back' arrangement.

(b) and (c) These may differ from contract to contract. The salient conditions of the lease agreements however, are as under:

(i) The lease rental would be paid in advance on monthly basis by Air India, (ii) Air India has to pay 2 or 3 months rental in advance as security deposit. (iii) Air India would pay maintenance Reserve to the lessor on a regular basis in respect of maintenance checks, Landing Gear, APU and Engines, (iv) Any modification declared by FAA/EASA/DGCA has to be incorporated on the aircraft at Air India's cost. In some agreements, there is a provision of cost sharing for modifications/ AD costing more than USD 50,000/- (v) During the lease term, the aircraft would be maintained as per the Indian DGCA approved maintenance program of Air India. (vi) During the lease term, the aircraft would be insured by Air India, (vii) At the time of returning the aircraft to the lessor:

(a) the aircraft shall undergo Major Check at an FAA/EASA approved MRO acceptable to lessor;

(b) the aircraft should meet all detailed lease return conditions;

(c) The Engines, Landing Gears & APU of the aircraft should be same as these were at the time of delivery to Air India, (viii) In case of delay in redelivery of aircraft by Air India, the lease agreement terms shall remain in force and the rental shall continue either at the same or an increased rate.

Setting up of Civil Aviation Commission

1571. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to give high tech industry status to aviation sector and set up a Civil Aviation Commission to speed up its growth;

(b) if so, whether this move will help India's demand for aircraft to be 100 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.