(b) whether this practice has been done away now with a view to cut the cost by these airlines;

(c) if so, whether this has resulted in mislocation and theft of baggage of passengers;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regards during the last year, airport-wise; and

(e) the action taken by Government to avoid such theft *vis-a-vis* mislocation of baggage at arrival belt at airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The number of complaints received in this regard during the last year is at an average of 15 cases per month and wherever necessary the cases have been handed over to local police for taking stern legal action.

Dropping of Mumbai airport from destination list

332. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airlines have threatened to drop the Mumbai airport from their destination list, if the capacity and efficiency of Mumbai airport is not increased urgently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mumbai airport has reached saturation level in terms of handling air traffic and the time by which it is expected to reach saturation level in passenger handling; and

(d) whether Government is considering an interim measure to upgrade the capacity and efficiency of the Mumbai airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The CSI Airport, Mumbai has been restructured and modernised through a Joint Venture Company namely M/s Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (MIAL) to handle 40 million passenger per annum (mppa) against the present passenger traffic which is about 28 mppa. At the present rate of growth in passenger traffic, saturation level is likely to be reached around 2016. As regards, the air traffic handling capacity, the declared capacity of CSI Airport,

Mumbai with single runway operations is 30 movements per hour and that with cross runway is 32 movements per hour. However, MIAL has commissioned a study to frame an institutional mechanism to enhance the air traffic handling capacity at the airport.

Air fare for evacuation from Egypt

333. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals who had to be evacuated from Egypt recently due to civil turmoil in that country by Indian Airlines;

(b) the air fare charges by Indian Airlines per passenger as against the normal air fare from that country to the destination in India; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no concession in airfares was given to the Indian citizens who had to be evacuated in emergent situation, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Air India evacuated 749 passengers (including 2 infants) by operating three flights.

(b) and (c) The fare charged was only to cover the direct cost (and not the total cost) of operating the flight on a "no profit" basis.

Change of brand name by Air India Express

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

(a) whether Air India is planning to re-brand its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express and shift its base to Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that earlier also the name of "Indian Airlines" was changed to "Indian" resulting into lot of criticism;

(d) if so, whether Government would take experts views from aviation experts on change of brand-name; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Air India has no plans to re-brand Air India Express. However, the airline has taken a decision to shift its headquarters to Kochi since it is operating more than 50% of its flights from Kerala. The relocation of headquarters and maintenance facilities to Kerala will enhance the operational standards of the airline apart from reduction of costs and movement of personnel, including cabin crew.