

(c) if not, by when it will be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Strikes by agitating AI pilots

498. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has knowledge of the losses incurred by Air India due to recent strike by the agitating pilots;

(b) the number of pilots involved in the strike, details thereof;

(c) the action taken against any of the pilots of AI who had gone on strike and were found to be involved in illegal activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The estimated revenue loss suffered by Air India on account of the recent strike is around Rs. 200 crores.

(b) The pilots of the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) went on strike during 27.4.2011 to 6.5.2011 which led to disruption of large number of flights.

(c) and (d) Air India terminated 6 pilots and 3 executive pilots. Apart from this, 7 pilots were suspended and also the union of ICPA de-recognized. However, later suspension and de-recognition has been withdrawn. No salary has been paid to the pilots for the strike period.

Funds for ferrying VVIPs

499. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has demanded special funds for ferrying VVIPs;

(b) the amount of the special funds; and

(c) the reaction/action of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Air India has requested for payment from the Government for maintaining a fleet of 3 Boeing 747 aircraft for VVIP special section operations.

(c) The demand of Air India has been examined and the Committee of Secretaries has accepted payment of Rs. 336.24 Crores as fixed cost and Rs. 90 Crores as variable cost, subject to yearly adjustment based on actual, for maintenance of 3 Boeing 747 aircrafts and Rs. 6 Crores for upgradation of simulator to Air India.

Revamping of DGCA

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

(a) whether Government proposed to revamp Directorate General of Civil Aviation with more powers since country's aviation sector is growing rapidly;

(b) if so, whether this revamped DGCA would be equipped with Appellate Tribunals to hear grievances of internal staff and passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Government is in the process of formulating a legislative proposal for setting up of Civil Aviation Authority of India in place of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The proposal also shall take care of passengers and staff grievance redressal mechanism.

Huge financial loss to Air India

501. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states:

(a) whether Air India is facing huge financial loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the total amount involved in the financial packages given by Government, so far, year-wise;

(d) whether Government intends to give further package to bring it out of the loss; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The total accumulated losses of Air India as on 31st March, 2010 are Rs. 13326.86 crores. The loss before tax during 2010-11 is expected to be Rs. 6994 crores (provisional).