

Public opinion on Draft Civil Aviation Rule

3892. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has invited public opinion on the draft Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) about facilities to be provided to the passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellations of flights and delays in flights;

(b) if so, the details of views expressed by public on CAR;

(c) whether in view of the opinions on CAR, Government proposes to protect the interest of passengers as well as airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Comments were received from International Air Transport Association (IATA), Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), VOICE (National Consumer Helpline) and from general public, which were considered by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. These primarily related to their respective areas of concern and were in line with the proposed Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR).

(c) and (d) Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3 - Air Transport Series 'M' Part IV Issue I, was issued on 6th August, 2010, which was made effective from 15.8.2010. All the scheduled Airlines are providing the facilities to the passengers in case of denied boarding, cancellation and flight delays in accordance with the provisions of CAR.

Frequent power failure at T-3 terminal

3893. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent power failure at T-3 terminal of AAI, New Delhi, has been causing inconvenience to its operation;

(b) if so, such power failure reported during the last six months at the said T-3 terminal;

(c) whether Government had asked the concerned to ensure not to repeat such power failures in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 7th August, 2011, due to the power failure at Terminal-3 of IGI Airport, New Delhi, the essential services were affected for about 4 hours.

(c) and (d) In order to go through the entire sequence of events, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has constituted a Committee to (i) study the reasons and circumstances of power failure, (ii) review the existing arrangements and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to meet such an exigency and security and safety implications, and (iii) suggest remedial measures to prevent such events in future.

The findings of the Committee are awaited.

High prices of flight tickets

3894. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has noted that high prices of tickets of airlines during the period from August 12 to August 16, 2011;

(b) the steps the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) took to monitor and thwart the predatory pricing patterns of airlines;

(c) whether Government has not put in place a system to ensure that the 'Open Skies' policy ensures uniformly reasonable and steady levels; and

(d) the action Government will initiate to control the periodic predatory pricing of airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Domestic Air fares are determined by market forces. No case of predatory pricing of Air tickets by private airlines has been brought to the notice of the Ministry, so far.

A working group has been setup under the Chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation on Regulatory Framework to protect consumer interest including disclosure of tariffs and conditions of service by domestic airlines.