

month of April, 2011, operations of PHL in the North East region were suspended and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was asked to conduct safety audit of PHL. DGCA teams carried out the safety audits of PHL including that of the North Eastern Regions in the month of May, 2011. Based on the action taken report, permission was granted on 6.6.2011 by DGCA to PHL for resumption of its operations in North East Region. PHL has resumed its services in Sikkim, Tripura and also with Oil India Limited.

(c) and (d) There were two accidents involving helicopters of PHL in the year 2011, in which 24 persons were killed. Financial losses suffered by PHL on account of loss of two helicopters would amount to Rs. 10.80 crore per annum as fixed charges.

(e) to (g) The accidents are under investigation by Committees of Inquiry appointed under Rule 74 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. The reasons for accidents may be known after the investigation is completed.

(h) PHL has further strengthened safety management system and Safety Oversight Department. Reporting system has also been further strengthened.

Land for development of Rajkot airport

3889. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry resolved railway land issue for development of Rajkot airport; if so, the details thereof with specific time limit;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any communication from Ministry of Railways in this regard; if so, the action taken thereof; and

(c) the amount of fund that has been allocated by AAI for development of Rajkot airport, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir. The expansion of existing airport at Rajkot may not be possible due to the limitations (habitation and permanent construction around the airport) at the existing airport.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Modernisation of airports

3890. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for modernisation of airports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated funds for construction/renovation of International/National Airports including Mumbai; and
- (c) the number of metro airports constructed by Government during the last three years and expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To meet the growth in air traffic, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already taken up expansion and modernization of 35 Non-Metro Airports and International airports at two metros namely Chennai and Kolkata. Details of airports modernization projects completed in the last three years and those projects which are in progress are given in the Statement-I and II respectively [Please refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Starred Question No. 515 Part (c) and (d)].

CSI airport at Mumbai is being modernized by the Joint Venture Company namely, Mumbai International Airport Limited at a cost of approximately Rs. 10,000 crore.

Disinvestment of Air India

3891. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the Air India staff will get their salary on time;
- (b) whether Government is preparing any master plan to survive the Air India; and
- (c) whether Government has any intention to disinvest the Air India like Steel Authority of India Limited or any hidden agenda to sale Air India to the private company?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) There has been a delay recently in payment of wages and salaries because of severe liquidity crisis which is the result of escalating fuel prices, falling yields and high interest cost. A Group of Ministers is monitoring the financial position of the Air India. The Group of Ministers (GOM) had directed Air India to prepare a viable and credible Turn Around Plan (TAP). Air India has prepared a TAP and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) in consultation with the financial consultant M/s. SBI Caps, which is being examined by a Group of Officers constituted by the GOM.

- (c) No, Sir.