

- (a) whether any fresh initiatives have been planned by Government to bring the services provided in Air India flights like catering etc. up to the international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The services provided by Air India on its flight are at least of international standard. Air India is the only airline offering choice of veg. and non-veg. meals to all its passengers whereas the other international airlines uplift only non-veg. meals and veg. meals are uplifted only if manifested. However, Air India has taken steps to improve its catering by providing meal on demand on direct ultra long flights in first class, welcome beverages for first and executive class, and elaborate and choice of meals for economy and executive class.

High-powered Committee on Antrix Devas deal

* 177. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the High-powered Committee appointed by Government to enquire about the controversial deal between ISRO/Antrix Corporation and a private company M/s Devas Multimedia Ltd. has submitted its Report;
- (b) if so, whether a copy of the Committee Report will be placed before the House; and
- (c) if not, whether any extension of time has been given to the Committee for completing the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Government set up a High Powered Review Committee on February 10, 2011 to review the technical, commercial, procedural and financial aspects of the Agreement between Antrix Corporation Limited and M/s Devas Multimedia 'Limited, to suggest corrective measures, and to fix responsibility for lapses, if any. The Committee was also asked to review the adequacy of procedures and approval processes followed by Antrix, ISRO and the Department of Space, and to suggest improvements and changes.

2. The High Powered Review Committee has since submitted its report to Government. Based on the examination of these recommendations, Government has initiated a number of actions. Further action will be taken as may be necessary. The steps taken so far include:—

- (i) Department of Revenue and Ministry of Corporate Affairs have been asked to initiate investigations for possible acts of omission and commission.

- (ii) A High Level Team has been constituted for examination of various aspects of the Antrix-Devas agreement and identification of acts of omission and commission involved in signing thereof.
- (iii) Governance and systemic reform measures are being undertaken in the Department of Space, ISRO and ANTRIX. A Departmental Committee headed by Secretary, Space will monitor the pace of their implementation. It has been decided that the Space Commission will regularly review the functioning of the Department of Space, ISRO and Antrix. The Space Commission would also mandate appropriate peer reviews periodically in respect of governance and systemic reforms. Several steps for improvement in the functioning and efficacy of the Space Commission have been put in place.
- (iv) A full time Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Antrix has been appointed with effect from July 07, 2011. The Antrix Board is being reconstituted. Two officers at the level of Director have been appointed in the Department of Space to look after (i) Projects, Procurement and matters relating to Antrix, and (ii) Legal matters and Contracts. In order to facilitate co-ordination between the Department of Space and Antrix, a Co-ordination Management Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Space has been set up.
- (v) The INSAT Coordination Committee has been re-constituted and the first meeting of the reconstituted Committee has been held.

Nuclear power project in Rajasthan

† *178. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Site Selection Committee of Nuclear Power Corporation has selected the site for establishing new Nuclear Power Project near Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam situated at Banswara in Rajasthan; and
- (b) if so, by when Central Government proposes to approve this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy had recommended the site at Mahi-Banswara near Mahi-Bajaj Sagar dam in Rajasthan for locating four 700 MW capacity indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).

(b) The Central Government has recently accorded 'in principle' approval for the site at Mahi-Banswara in Rajasthan to locate four units of indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors.

Indian athletes in dope scandal

*179. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.