

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent incident of an Air India aeroplane skidding off the runway in Kanpur has adversely affected Air India's scheme of launching the air services from small cities; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to tackle this situation so that around 40-42 cities of the country may be connected through air services as per scheme of Government?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Disaster management of airports

1879. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements for averting and managing disasters are sufficient at all the airports in the country;

(b) the present state of the arrangements;

(c) whether there are any deficiencies; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to upgrade the arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The existing Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) is considered sufficient to handle the present types of emergencies at the airports. In addition, Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting services are also available to meet any emergencies. Wherever required, the resources of State Disaster Management Authority, city fire brigade, hospitals and ambulance services are also availed to meet the emergencies. The AEP is practiced at regular intervals and mock emergency drills are regularly conducted to test the efficacy of the Plan and services.

(c) No deficiencies have been noticed in the existing AEP.

(d) The AEP is regularly updated to make it realistic to meet real-time emergencies. Also, the present AEP is in line with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations.