International status to Bagdogra airport

†2496. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is considering for taking action on the long pending proposal for giving international status to Bagdogra Airport;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to downgrade Bagdogra Airport; and

(d)   if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b)   Does not arise.

(c)   No, Sir.

(d)   Does not arise.

Suspension of Air India from Star Alliance

2497. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Star Alliance, the global grouping of airlines has suspended the national carrier's entry bid recently;

(b)   if so, whether the Star Alliance has stated that the Air India has failed to meet minimum joining conditions contractually agreed to in December, 2007;

(c)   if so, to what extent the allegations imposed by Star Alliance are factually correct and what would be the impact on Air India of such breaking alliance;

(d)   whether Government proposes to ensure that Air India joins the Star Alliance in the interest of carrier; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Star Alliance has recently informed Air India that its joining the alliance has been deferred.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b)   Yes, Sir.

(c)   Air India has met the minimum joining conditions as agreed earlier. However, the Alliance has recently put forward additional conditionalities that are unacceptable.

(d) and (e) Discussion are going on between Air India and Star Alliance.

Technology driven solutions for pilot licensing system

2498. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether in the wake of plugging the loopholes in the pilot licensing system, Government intends to use technology driven solutions and minimise human interface in the process;

(b)   if so, whether the committee set up to suggest ways and means to revamp the current system of pilot licensing has since submitted its report to Government;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   to what extent Government proposes to ensure transparency and fool-proof systems in awarding licences to pilots?

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

(b) to (d) The report of the Expert Committee constituted by the Government to look into the current system of examination and licensing of pilots and make recommendations to make the system secure, Credible and efficient and in line with modern and best practices has been accepted for implementation. The Committee has made 12 recommendations, the break up of the same is (i) Examination System - 06; (ii) Licensing System - 05 and (iii) Development of comprehensive system for licensing - 01. Actions based on the recommendations of the Committee would ensure that the process of issuing licences to pilots is transparent and fool-proof.

Turnaround plan for Air India

2499. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of turnaround plan approved by the Air India Board;

(b)   whether it is a fact that Air India has appointed a 11-Member panel for implementation of the turnaround plan;