

cost, return of leased aircraft at the end of their tenure or prematurely, enhanced utilization of the new fleet resulting in production of higher ASKMs, Grounding of ageing fleet including B747-400 which would be used only for certain lines of operations and for operating VVIP flights, Increase in passenger/cargo revenue, excess baggage revenue through aggressive sales & marketing efforts including for attracting government traffic and upgradation of IT Infrastructure and solutions.

Setting up of an aviation authority

1103. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up an aviation authority;
- (b) if so, the details and its objectives;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed aviation authority will have total financial autonomy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is considering establishing a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in India in place of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Apart from the regulatory safety oversight functions of the current DGCA, additional functions relating to Economic Regulation, Consumer Protection and Environment Regulations have also been included in the proposed CAA.

The objective of the proposed CAA is to overcome the constraints presently faced by DGCA in terms of recruitment and retention of technical manpower and inability to quickly address on-going operational issues due to lack of adequate administrative and financial authority and growing need of the aviation sector.

(c) and (d) The proposed authority would have adequate financial and administrative flexibility to meet functional requirements of an effective safety oversight system.

Improving Air services in North-East

1104. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: