

### **Theft of aircraft scrap**

†2492. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any case of theft of aircraft scrap from Air India's godown has come to the notice of Government;
- (b) if so, the quantum of scrap found to have been stolen from these godowns;
- (c) whether assessment of total loss has been made and if so, the total loss incurred; and
- (d) whether any departmental enquiry has been launched apart from police investigation and the name of the equipments stolen in this theft and the total cost thereof along with the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) About 2½ scrap engine material worth Rs. 5-6 lakhs approximately was reported missing from the Scrap Yard, Engineering Complex, IGI Airport, Delhi on 18.08.2011. An internal enquiry was conducted and an FIR was lodged by the Engineering Department with IGI Airport Police Station, New Delhi on 23.09.2011 for the theft of Engine material.

### **Huge subsidy to Air India**

2493. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all airlines in India are operating 25 per cent below their operation cost;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Air India is being financially considered by Government in order to maintain operating cost;
- (d) whether such a huge subsidy to Air India will hamper the growth of other airlines and make them bankrupt; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to extend Government's support to all airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No such assessment has been made by the Ministry.

(c) Government has so far infused fresh equity of Rs.3200 crore in Air India and has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to review/monitor the operational and financial performance of Air India. On the directions of GoM, Air India had prepared its Turn Around Plan (TAP) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP), which

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has been examined by a Group of Officers (GoO). The recommendations of GoO have been referred by the GoM for RBI's views and regulatory forbearance on the FRP.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The single largest element contributing to the airline costs is the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) which accounts for 40% of the operation cost. One of the reasons of High ATF rates is high sales tax imposed by State Governments. The Government has undertaken measures to reduce the sales tax on ATF. These are as under:

- (1) The State Governments have been persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Chhattisgarh and with certain conditions Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.
- (2) The Oil companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis instead of on monthly basis.

#### **Special facilities during air journeys**

†2494. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide special facilities during air journey to attract foreign tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) the expected annual number of foreign tourists visiting India after providing above facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, to attract foreign tourists, Government is encouraging development of airport infrastructure by way of expansion/upgradation of existing airports including small and medium airports and through establishment of new airports (including greenfield airports) with a view to ensure:-

- (i) Infrastructure to be in place ahead of demand.
- (ii) Support for airport infrastructure development initiatives to facilitate/encourage air connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas of tourist importance.

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