

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kangra airport has become vulnerable to vultures resulting in flights getting delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this excessive increase in the vultures;

(c) the number of bird-hit incidents occurred during the last two years and the loss Government has suffered consequent upon these incidents; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to get rid of this menace?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The reasons for excessive vulture activity are due to presence of illegal slaughter houses/meat shops and inadequate Garbage Disposal Management, in the residential areas, in the vicinity of Kangra Airport.

(c) One bird hit incident was reported during the year 2010 (on 29.09.2010) and five bird hit incidents reported during the year 2011 (on 10.01.2011, 19.01.2011, 28.03.2011, 15.10.2011 and 28.10.2011). However, aircraft reported normal operations and there was no loss to property and life.

(d) This matter has already been taken in the month of July, 2011 with local administration who have accordingly directed the concerned Gram Panchayats Heads to take necessary action for removal of illegal slaughter houses/meat shops and to prevent fleecing of dead animals in the open, in the areas falling under their jurisdiction. Orders have been issued by the Gaggal Panchayat, to remove the slaughter houses/meat shops from Gaggal town. The vulture/bird menace problem has been highlighted in the local media to increase public awareness, for keeping the environment, neat and clean, in the areas adjoining Kangra Airport. The frequency of runway inspection has been increased. Crackers are being used during flight operations to mitigate the bird activity. SOP as per BCAS guidelines for use of crackers is in place.

Loans secured by Air India

2491. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India secured loans from Institutions including banks for buying new passenger Aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of loans secured, institution/bank-wise; and

(c) the total amount of interest paid on these loans for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010?

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

(b) and (c) The detailed information is in the process of collection.