

Cargo hubs in country

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to build cargo hubs in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) the present status of the proposal; and
- (d) by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Government does not have any proposal to set up exclusive Cargo Hubs in India.

Expertise of pilot for CAT-III

330. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that AI-131 took 20 hours from Mumbai to Heathrow in the month of October;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government;
- (c) how much this delay has cost Air India;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the pilots were not expert to land when CAT-III is activated;
- (e) the number of pilots with Air India who have been given training to land when CAT-III is activated; and
- (f) the future plan so that such incident may not happen again?

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

(b) AI-131 from Mumbai to London was diverted to Gatwick due to poor visibility and single run way operation. From Gatwick to Heathrow the flight was delayed by nine hours due to crew duty time limitation and non-availability of landing slot at Heathrow. Air India has decided to schedule CAT-III crew for flights to USA and Europe and also to carry additional holding fuel to meet such eventualities in future.

- (c) The exact cost cannot be worked out for various reasons.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) 140 Commanders and 115 Co-pilots of B-777 and B-747 are CAT-III trained in Air India.