

them and that of AWHs and Workers of Mini-AWCs by Rs.750/- per month w.e.f. 1.4.2011. The States/UTs also provide additional honoraria to AWWs/AWHs from their own resources. The periodicity of increase of honorarium has been in the range of 5-8 years except in 1978 and 2011 which was increased after 3 years.

Besides, payment of honorarium, AWWs/AWHs are also granted various other benefits such as Paid Absence on Maternity of 180 days, Insurance cover under Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana (AKBY), reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for AWWs, recruitment of 25% of AWWs from amongst AWHs, provision of uniform, awards etc.

Phasing out of foreign pilots

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing acute shortage of qualified and experienced pilots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision to phase out foreign pilots;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government, at the instance of the airlines, extended the deadline to phase out foreign pilots; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Due to growth of air traffic and induction of new types of aircraft, the industry is facing shortage of type rated pilots especially in the Commander categories. This shortage is also met by appointing foreign pilots on Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA).

(b) to (e) To cover the shortage of type rated pilots and commanders, Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) policy was reviewed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and *vide* order dated 06.12.2010; Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization Policy has been extended up to 31st December 2013 on case to case basis. As a follow up, cases of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) pilots are processed on the basis of information furnished by each airline regarding simultaneous training of their Indian pilots and phase out programme of Expat pilots.

Survey to identify critical airports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted a countrywide survey to identify the critical airports;

(b) if so, the details of the survey made;

(c) the suggestions made in the survey; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) DGCA has identified, 11 airports, which were considered critical airports from flight operations point of view, namely Leh, Kullu, Shimla, Port Blair, Agartala, Lengpui, Calicut, Mangalore, Jammu, Patna and Latur.

(b) As a part of safety reassurance drive, the airport systems, facilities and procedures were thoroughly reviewed by DGCA to enhance the safety of aircraft operations at these airports. Inspection of these airports was carried out by teams of officials from Flight Operations Directorate and Aerodrome Standards Directorate.

(c) and (d) The following suggestions made in the inspection report have been implemented to enhance the safety at aerodromes by the aerodrome operators:-

(i) Provision of Runway End Safety Area;

(ii) Ensuring Proper marking on Runway;

(iii) Proper Maintenance of Basic Strip and ensuring Frangibility Criteria;

(iv) Periodical calibration of Nav aids;

(v) Maintenance of runway surface within appropriate friction level;

(vi) Removal of obstructions and proper marking and lighting of permissible obstacles;

(vii) Safety Risk Assessment in respect of non-compliances.

Purchase of aircrafts during UPA-I regime

*46. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its recent report has questioned the *modus operandi* for purchase of aircrafts during UPA-I regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction and response of Government thereto;

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission had raised objections against this purchase;