

(f) Air India has decided to schedule CAT-III crew for flights to USA and Europe and also to carry additional holding fuel to meet eventualities.

**Participation in pilots' strike**

331. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India pilots of the rank of DGM has participated in the pilots' strike of Air India from 30th April to 10th May 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the pilots of the rank of DGM involved in the strike?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Indian Pilots' Association (ICPA) went on a strike w.e.f. 27.04.2011. The Executive Pilots (DGM-Operations) also joined the agitation and started reporting sick. Around 155 Executive Pilots participated in the agitation. Keeping in view the extent of their involvement the services of three Executive Pilots were terminated.

**Airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra**

†332. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to construct a new airport at the religious place Shirdi, Maharashtra keeping in view the increasing number of Sai devotees at Shirdi or whether State Government has made any such demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Government of India has accorded 'in-principle' approval to Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation, a Government of Maharashtra undertaking, for setting up of a Greenfield international airport at Kakdi village, Taluka Kopergaon near Shirdi, District Ahmad Nagar in Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise.

**Salary to contractual employees**

333. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India Charter Ltd. Cabin Crews are getting Rs. 25,000 as contractual employees even after working for 7 years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether now the Management of Air India Charter Ltd. is recruiting cabin crews for the same work in much higher scale without considering the demand of cabin crews of Air India Charter Ltd.; and

(c) whether there is any uniform policy of recruitment as Air India and Air India Charter Ltd. are Central Public Sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No Airline Attendant (AA) working with Air India Charter Limited (AICL) has completed 7 years of service. The total starting emoluments payable to an AA is approx. Rs. 25,500/- per month, based on 60 hours of flying per month will get Rs. 40,000/- after implementation of the recent wage revision of AAs.

(b) AICL is not carrying out any recruitment exercise for AAs for Air India Express at present as there is already a wait list of selected candidates available, who, on appointment will draw emoluments at par with the present AICL Cabin Crew.

(c) AICL is a subsidiary company of Air India and its recruitment procedure is different from that of the parent Company, as both operate on different business models.

#### **Services from Kerala to Middle East**

334. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India services from Kerala to Middle East are cancelled frequently in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bigger aircrafts are replaced with smaller ones in the above sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Effective November, 2010, Air India Express started with curtailed scheduled operations due to cabin crew shortage. However, the flights were restored in phased manner and full schedule was once again effective from 14.02.2011.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On the contrary Air India upgraded its aircraft between 15.06.2011 and 15.09.2011 on Kozhikode - Sharjah and v.v. route and kozhikode-Dubai and v.v. route in order to cater to increased demand of the festive season of Ramada and Onam.

#### **Mismanagement in purchase of Airbus**

335. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: