

(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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.