

commissioning and operation, safety is reviewed and authorization accorded by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

The reactors of indigenous design-Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) follow the latest safety standards prescribed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which are regulated by the AERB. In respect of Light Water Reactors (LWRs) set up in technical cooperation with foreign countries, safety requirements of regulatory body of the vendor country as well as Indian regulatory body, *i.e.* AERB are to be satisfied. The AERB independently reviews and accords stage-wise clearance/approvals for setting up reactors in India. Post Fukushima (Japan) incident, safety of the Indian nuclear power plants has been reviewed by task forces of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the AERB. The reviews found that the plants are safe and have margins and features to withstand extreme natural events such as Tsunami, Earthquake etc.

#### **Enhancing the number of flights by Air India**

317. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations to enhance the number of flights being operated by Air India on an average every day;

(b) whether there is any proposal to enhance the number of flights in the Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam sector;

(c) to what extent has Air India allowed profitable routes to be abandoned during the last year; and

(d) the steps proposed to consider chartering of flights to operate them under the banner of Air India to maintain visibility?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations to enhance the number of operations of Air India are received from all quarters.

(b) and (c) The airlines are free to operate flights within the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. Commencement and withdrawal of flights depend upon the commercial judgement of the airlines itself.

(d) Air India is similarly free to consider chartering of flights depending upon their economic returns and viability, keeping in mind the guidelines issued by the DGCA.

#### **Integration of employees of AI and IA**

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

(a) whether a four member committee on Integration of employees of Air India and Indian Airlines on account of their merger submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees have been agitating over disparities in their pay scales, promotional avenues and areas of responsibilities; and

(d) if so, the views expressed by the said committee in its said report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A four member committee, headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice D.M. Dharmadhikari submitted their report to the Government on 31st January, 2012. The report has taken into account the views of all section of employees of the two now merged airlines. This is under examination of a Committee consisting of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Public Enterprises and an outside expert who will recommend their report to the Government and also establish a time frame for implementation of the report of the Dharmadhikari Committee.

#### **Fleet and crew members of Air India**

319. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the current fleet of aeroplanes with the Air India;

(b) the number of pilots and other crew members;

(c) whether the ratio of aeroplanes and crew members of Air India is as per the International practice to make the Air India viable and vibrant; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to make the national carrier viable in the international aviation scenario?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Currently Air India has 125 aircraft in its fleet.

(b) At present Air India has 1533 pilots and 3136 cabin crew.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The functioning of Air India was first reviewed at the level of Committee of Secretaries in 2009. It was decided that the Review of Air India would be undertaken at the level of GoM. The GoM thereon met several times to review the performance of Air India and gave specific targets/milestones for infusion of Equity. The Government of India has infused Rs. 3200 crores upto March, 2012. The GoM in the recent reviews held on 28.10.2011 and 07.02.2012, accepted the recommendations of the Group of Officers constituted by GoM to vet the Financial Restructuring Plan/ Turn Around Plan (FRP/TAP) of Air India which included the conversion of Rs. 11,000 crores of working capital into long-term loans, issue Non-Convertible Debentures, guaranteed by Government, of Rs. 7400 crores. The balance of the working capital would be in the form of a Cash Credit Arrangement with the Banks.