

**Harassment to the disabled passengers in flights**

4607. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the two recent incidents wherein a women passenger with cerebral palsy was rudely deplaned by a Spicejet flights and a woman suffering from muscular dystrophy was harassed by Jet Airways functionary, not recognizing and respecting the human rights of the disabled people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken, if any, by the Minister to impress upon the Civil Aviation Ministry the need to discipline those who wilfully flouted the DGCA's guidelines in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information provided by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ms. Jeeja Ghosh, suffering from cerebral palsy, was de-boarded from the Spicejet flight SG-803 at Kolkata on 19.02.2012 and Ms. Anjlee Agarwal, suffering from muscular dystrophy was reportedly harassed by personnel of Jet Airways while traveling between Delhi and Raipur by Jet Connect flight No. 9W2211 in Feb, 2012. Ministry of Civil Aviation has constituted a Committee to look into the best practices in the world on dealing with air travel of persons with disabilities. The Committee would give suggestions for appropriate modification of the civil aviation requirements and for the improvement of designs of airline websites, accessories, facilities/infrastructure etc. specially meant to facilitate comfortable air travel for the persons with disabilities.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through its Minister has impressed upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation to include vital issue of sensitization of staff of commercial airlines and airport operators in disability issues as one of the terms of reference of the above Committee constituted for the purpose of reviewing the existing guidelines for carriage of persons with reduced mobility and disability.

**Setting up National Council for Senior Citizens**

4608. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to set up a National Council for Senior Citizens;