

Air India loses on unused property

4501. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that indecisive Air India loses Rs. 80 crore annually on unused prime property;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to utilise such property in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) As part of the decisions taken on the Turn Around Plan, Air India is in the process of monetization of its assets including its immovable properties at all locations. It will also create more available space which can be put on rent to raise revenue. There are some vacant spaces but under litigation with previous tenants. Efforts are being made to resolve such disputes. No study has been undertaken to evaluate any notional loss on this account.

Shortage of air traffic controller in the Country

4502. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Air Traffic Controllers in airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the status in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies in ATC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The actual strength of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) at present is 2131 against the sanctioned strength of 2417 with a shortfall of 226.

- (c) Airports Authority of India has initiated necessary steps for recruitment of 200 Junior Executive in the ATC Discipline.

Foreign Investment in the Civil Aviation Sector

†4503. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to permit investment by the foreign airlines in the civil aviation sector of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.