

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No proposal to upgrade the Airstrip at Rangeilunda near Berhampur in Ganjam District has been received.

Cancellation of Flights by private aviation companies

†947. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether various private aviation companies have cancelled their flights to several sectors and are contemplating to increase the fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against such aviation companies;

(c) whether adequate compensation has been given to passengers in such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps that Government is proposing to take further in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Scheduled airlines generally operate the flights as approved. However, at times the flights are cancelled due to watch hour restrictions, weather, technical reasons etc. beyond the control of the airlines.

From October 2011 to January 2012, total no. of 3309 flights were cancelled due to reasons such as technical, operational, weather, commercial, airport restrictions, flight disruptions, non availability of aircraft, bird hits etc.

Airfares are not regulated by the Government, air fares are being charged by airlines as per the market forces.

(c) to (e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements 'Section 3, Series M, Part IV regarding "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights" which is being strictly adhered to by the airlines.

As informed by scheduled domestic airlines, a total of Rs. 112.02 lakh was paid to passengers as compensation during the period.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi