

were misusing funds from America and other western countries to stoke protests at the Kudankulam nuclear plant;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Russian stand has been vindicated; and
- (d) by when, the plant would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) There are reports about some organizations diverting funds for purposes other than the permitted use of foreign funds. These matters are being investigated.

(d) The government is making all efforts to normalize the situation to enable early restart of the work on the project. The date of plant becoming operational can be assessed after normalization of the situation.

Harrassment to the Passengers in Flights

938. SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the two recent incidents, one the case of a women passenger with cerebral palsy was rudely deplaned by a Spice Jet flight and in another case a women suffering from muscular dystrophy was harassed by Jet Airways functionary, not recognizing and respecting the human rights of the disabled people and flouting the DGCA's guidelines in this regard; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and what action is taken against these two Airways?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Three cases of harassment faced by physically challenged passengers were reported to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), two in the year 2011 and one in 2012. The details and Action Taken report on these cases are given in the Statement (*See below*). No such case reported to the DGCA against Jet Airways during the period.

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on "Carriage of Passenger by air with disability and/or with reduced mobility", which is being strictly adhered to by the airlines. The said CAR is available on DGCA website. Violation of the provisions of CAR is punishable under the Schedule VI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Statement

Details and A.T.R. on the three cases of harassment faced by physically challenged passengers

1. On 10th May 2011, Mrs. Mansuri Shabana and Master Mansuri Lukmaan (Child) were travelling alongwith an infant on Kingfisher Airlines flight on Ahmedabad-

Mumbai-Goa sector. They were handed over to the crew on board operating the flight at Ahmedabad. At Mumbai, the ground staff met the passengers on arrival and boarded them on the connecting flight to Goa. On this flight the set of cabin crew realized that the blind passenger was accompanied by an infant and a child. The same was reported to the commander and the ground staff that this carriage was not permissible on safety grounds. The passenger later travelled by Spicejet flight.

The matter was taken up by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with airlines, Kingfisher Airlines has taken following corrective actions to avoid recurrence of such incidents :

- (a) The crew and the concerned ground services staff at Ahmedabad have been issued warning letters and have been strongly briefed.
- (b) A reiteration of the carriage policy for such travel has been circulated to all concerned.

2. Sh. Mohammed Asif Iqbal (Disabled from Eyes) faced harassment while travelling on Kingfisher Airlines flight IT 3571 on 30th May 2011 at Patna airport. An indemnity bond was obtained from him.

Matter was taken up with Airlines by DGCA. As an immediate action, Kingfisher Airlines have terminated all staff involved, including the Airport Manager at Patna airport. In view of this, Kingfisher Airlines reiterated the guidelines to all airports indicating following :

- (a) A blind guest who has no medical complications and is perfectly capable of taking care of his/her personal needs must be accepted on Kingfisher flights and is not required to sign an Indemnity form.
- (b) Such a guest is allowed to travel alone and no companion/escort is required to travel along.
- (c) Staff should treat such guest with special care and be sensitive to their needs.
- (d) In the event of flight disruptions, staff should ensure that these guests are handled with priority.

3. Ms. Jeeja Ghosh, a person with cerebral palsy, was de-boarded from the Spicejet flight SG-803 at Kolkata on 19.02.2012. Matter was taken up with Spicejet who informed that when the passenger Ms. Jeeja Ghosh reported at the check-in counter for her board card, she did not declare herself to be a person with any disability or with reduced mobility. She was provided assistance to board the flight. As informed by Spicejet, while being seated, the cabin crew observed froth, saliva with traces of blood oozing out of Ms. Jeeja Ghosh's mouth with her hands folded in an abnormal manner and she was also not in position to respond to the Cabin Crew's questions. Accordingly, the matter was reported to the Pilot-in-Command (PIC) and a decision was taken to deboard Ms. Jeeja Ghosh on account of her medical condition.

Matter was taken up by DGCA with the airlines. To avoid recurrence of such incidents, Spicejet has re-examined the responsibilities of the pilot-in-command with reference to the provisions of the applicable Civil Aviation Requirements and he is being counseled to display more empathy to deal with such situation in future. Spicejet has also informed that they are issuing necessary instructions to reinforce the existing procedures on handling of persons with disability.

In this regard, a meeting on the rights of passengers with disability and reduced mobility was held on 12.03.2012 under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, M/o Civil Aviation. It was decided that a Committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of JS, MoCA with representatives of stake holders as members to look into the best practices in the world on the matter, latest UN/ICAO guidelines on dealing with air travel of persons with disabilities and give a suggestion for appropriate modifications of the CAR concerned and for the improvement of designs of airline websites, accessories and facilities/infrastructure etc. especially meant to facilitate comfortable air travel for the persons with disabilities.

Construction of Multi-Storied Building near Palam Airbase

939. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that large scale construction of multi-storied buildings near Palam airbase is underway;
- (b) whether the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the buildings have been obtained;
- (c) if not, the action taken against the owners of these buildings; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Some constructions of multi-storied buildings near IGI Airport, Delhi are underway at the Hospitality District of Delhi International Airport Ltd. (Aero City).

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) and (d) Not applicable.

Investigation of Irregularities in Flying School by CVC

940. SHRI A. A. JINNAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is looking into alleged irregularities by some flying schools operational across the country for violating norms and causing a loss of about Rs. 190 crore to the exchequer;