

(c) whether annual passenger load would be double by 2017 if air access to smaller towns and cities is provided;

(d) whether Government is considering to develop new airports which would require Rs. 67,000 crore of which Rs. 50,000 is expected to come from the private sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) It is estimated that the passenger traffic will increase from 143.43 million in 2010-11 to 293.48 million in 2017-18.

(d) and (e) As per the projections of the 12th Five Year Plan, an investment of Rs. 67,500 crores has been envisaged for development of airport infrastructure at existing airports as well as the development of new Greenfield airports, out of which, Rs. 50,000 crores is expected to come from the private sector. A major part of this investment is likely to happen for the development of greenfield airports.

**Harrassment to women passengers by private airlines**

954. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI R.C. SINGH :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry's attention has been drawn to the repeated occurrences of off-loading and harassing differently abled women passengers by the private airlines operating in the country like Spicejet, Jet Airways etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that clearcut guidelines regarding handling of the differently-abled passengers by the DGCA are there in vogue;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken any step against the erring airlines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (g) 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. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 938 Part (a) and (b)]

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (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.

**Panel to look into ailing air industry**

955. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has recently set up a panel led by Aviation Secretary to look into specific requirements of ailing air industry, who are deep in red;
- (b) the accumulated airlines losses till November 30, 2011 indicating the factors responsible for incurring huge losses by Indian carriers; and
- (c) whether the above mentioned panel has so far recommended any financial package for the ailing air industry sector so as to make it sustainable, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Inter-Ministerial Working Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation to identify the factors causing stress in civil aviation sector and suggest solution to them. Finance Secretary; Secretary, M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas; Secretary, Financial Services; Director General of Foreign Trade and Joint Secretary (Civil Aviation) are members of this Working Group.

(b) Based on returns filed by airlines with Directorate General of Civil Aviation, all scheduled airlines except IndiGo operating in the country are incurring losses. Industry sources has placed Rs. 26,000 crores operational losses in 2007-2010 periods and Rs. 10,000 crores loss anticipated in 2011-12. The spiraling cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), global economic slowdown and low yield due to intense competition and consequent widening gap between revenue and expenses have contributed greatly to losses.

(c) The Working Group held its first meeting on 21.12.2011 wherein no financial package for airlines has been recommended. However, the recommendations made by the Working Group, *inter-alia*, includes rationalization of the VAT on ATF, permission to foreign airlines to invest in the domestic airlines undertakings, allow airlines to import ATF directly for their own consumption, revision of fare structure by airlines so that costs of operations are covered.