

clients, customers or apprentices besides the students and research scholars in colleges and universities and patients in hospitals are sought to be covered under the proposed legislation.

The Bill casts a responsibility on every employer of a workplace, except in respect of workplaces employing less than 10 persons, to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee to enquire into complaints and recommend action, if the charges are proved. In respect of workplaces employing less than 10 persons, Local Complaints Committees constituted by the District Officers are responsible for taking similar action.

The employers are responsible for facilitating the enquiry process and taking steps for awareness generation, prevention and deterrence. They are also required to regularly report on cases filed and disposed for better enforcement of the law. The proposed Bill provides for penalties in case of non-compliance of these duties. The Bill seeks to put in place appropriate monitoring mechanism.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2011 to address sexual abuse and exploitation of Children. The Offences covered under the Bill include penetrative sexual assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment and child pornography. Aggravated situations, including commission of an offence by a person in a position of trust or authority of a child, call for more stringent provisions. The proposed Bill aims to protect the child's right to privacy and confidentiality. It is expected that enactment of this Bill will contribute to the safety and security of children and protect them from sexual assault, harassment and exploitation.

Combining of AI Flights

*135. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that many of the airlines in the country, including Air India, have either cancelled or combined a large number of flights, causing inconvenience to the passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to ensure prompt and convenient services by the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Generally, scheduled airlines operate their flights as approved. However, at times the flights are cancelled due to weather, technical, operational, commercial and miscellaneous reasons which are beyond the control of the airlines.

During the period of Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2012, total no. of 3309 flights were cancelled by scheduled domestic airlines. The details are as under :

Month	No. of Cancellation
October 2011	728
November 2011	614
December 2011	934
January 2012	1033
Reasons of Cancellation	Percentage
Technical	12.8%
Operational	9.6%
Weather	33.6%
Commercial	6.0%
Miscellaneous Reasons	38.0%

(Miscellaneous reasons includes airport restrictions, flights disruptions, non-availability of aircraft, bird hits etc.)

(c) DGCA undertakes regular monitoring of schedule integrity and from time to time takes up the matter with concerned airlines. Additionally, DGCA has issued regulations on "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights" which is being strictly monitored by DGCA for their compliance by airlines.

Action against Airlines

136. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has passed strictures against certain airlines of lapses in airplane maintenance and crew numbers that affect safety;

(b) whether it is a fact that some airlines are compromising on airplane maintenance and crew numbers due to lack of funds or poor financial management; and

(c) if so, the strict action DGCA is taking against defaulting airlines by withdrawing their licence and thus protecting human lives.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted financial surveillance from safety perspective of scheduled domestic airlines viz. Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, Jet Airways, JetLite, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet, Go Air, IndiGo and Blue Dart in November-December 2011. Some discrepancies have been observed in