

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) It was observed that most major international carriers have grown by ensuring seamless connectivity between international and domestic networks to build extensive access. The integration of the two national airlines would also lead to developing a seamless connectivity network of regional operations, short to medium and long haul operations that leads to an improved product through increased network coverage. Their merger could also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution beside affording an opportunity for financial restructuring/strengthening by leveraging common assets. Further, the merger may result in creation of a much bigger airline, as compared to nearest domestic competitor, with dominance in domestic/international market position.

(b) and (c) 77% of the integration has already been completed. Balance 23% including HR integration is underway. Justice Dharmadhikari Committee report has been accepted by the Government and an Implementation-cum-Anomaly rectification Committee is constituted in order to implement its recommendations.

(d) The Unions/Associations of Air India play an important role in the smooth functioning of the airline and help in maintaining industrial peace and harmony through constructive cooperation across levels. Recognition to Unions and Associations in Air India Ltd. is given as per the Code of discipline in Industry. The Management has been fair but firm towards all the Unions/Associations and all genuine demands of the Union are considered and grievances, if any are dealt with expeditiously.

#### **Upgradation of aviation technology**

2489. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any satellite based Air Traffic Control Guidance System 'Gagan' has been put into operation for Air Traffic Control in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) "GAGAN" (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) is a satellite based navigation system, which is planned to be operationalized over the Indian airspace by June, 2013 after certification by DGCA.

(b) GAGAN system is developed jointly by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO). This is only the 4th such system in the world after USA, Europe and Japan. The final system acceptance test has been successfully completed in July, 2012 and the certification process is in progress. After due certification by DGCA the system is scheduled for operations in June 2013. The system will enhance the navigational capability at airports and enroute operations significantly. Besides aviation, the system will also support various non-aviation areas such as Roads, Rail and Marine operations.

**Security arrangements at Chhatrapati Shivaji International  
Airport in Mumbai**

†2490. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of shortcomings in the security arrangements at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that even the CCTV cameras installed in the parking of airport are not working; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken by Government to ensure security of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There are no shortcomings in the security arrangement at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir. As on date, all CCTV cameras installed in the parking areas of the Airport are in working condition.

(c) Does not arise.

**Upgradation of airports in the country**

2491. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently decided to upgrade the existing airports in the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP);

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.