

(b) the corrective measures Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The total loss of revenue already caused to Air India due to prolonged strike by the pilots is approximately Rs.600 crores.

(b) The Management of Air India has always been open to dialogue with the Unions and is in constant touch with them to redress their grievances, if any. Open House sessions are being conducted at every level to enable employees to come out with their grievances and issues. The issues brought out in Open House Sessions are dealt with in time-bound manner.

#### **Availability of newspapers and magazines for air passengers**

†470. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is arrangement for ensuring availability of newspapers and magazines for air passengers for reading during air journey in Air India, Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, Jetlite, Kingfisher, Go Air, Indigo, Spice Jet etc. air services of the country;

(b) if so, whether Hindi magazines and newspapers are also provided among those newspapers and magazines; and

(c) if so, the details of number of Hindi and English magazines and newspapers provided each day?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All airlines provide in-flight reading materials. In addition some airlines also provide newspapers and magazines. However, discretion of providing newspapers and magazines on board of the aircraft lies with the concerned airlines and details are not maintained by the Govt.

#### **Privatization of airports**

471. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chennai Airport is going to be privatised;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission is also toying with the ideas of privatising Kolkata, Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) To review the implementation of the Financing Plan prepared in 2006 and to prepare a Financing Plan over the Twelfth Five Plan period, a Task Force on Financing Plan for development of airports has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission. The Task Force has recommended, that operations and management of Chennai and Kolkata Airports could be taken up through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Similarly, it has also been recommended that operations and management of airports at Jaipur and Ahmedabad may also be taken up through PPP mode.

(c) The Task Force emphasised that projected investment at these airports can fructify only if the PPP approach was adopted extensively. This would not only help attract the requisite volumes of investment, it would also ensure generation of significant volumes of non-aeronautical revenues that would help reduce the passenger charges to affordable levels.

#### **Airports in Himachal Pradesh**

†472. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of airports that have adequate facilities for handling air traffic and the total air traffic volume during last year; and

(c) whether Government is making adequate arrangements to promote air services in Himachal Pradesh, so that tourism could be developed in that State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) There are three airports in the State of Himachal Pradesh located at Kangra (Gaggal), Shimla and Kullu (Bhuntar). All these three airports have facilities for handling ATR type of aircraft operations. The traffic handled at these three airports during 2011-12 was:

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