

that are headed by Airport Directors of AAI and other private/JV airports with a view to review the effectiveness of these bodies;

- To lay down policy guidelines for setting up of Air Cargo facilities at Airports, Air Freight Stations/Cargo Villages including guidelines for Public Private Partnership model of development of these facilities;
- To act as a coordinating agency to ensure expeditious clearance of the proposals for setting up of Air Cargo facilities at Airports, Air Freight Stations/Cargo Villages in the country subject to fulfillment of all statutory requirements;
- To lay down performance standards relating to quality of service in the air cargo logistics supply chain to be monitored by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) for implementation.
- To review the progress on development of major gateway airports as Cargo hubs through facilitating transshipment; and
- To review periodically the implementation of the proposals cleared by the Board.

#### **Cooch Behar Airport**

1711. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to make the Cooch Behar Airport in West Bengal fully and regularly operative?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Cooch Behar Airport is an operational airport. However, there are no scheduled flight operations. It is upto the airline operators to provide air services depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability considerations. So far, no airline has indicated its commitment to operate regular flights from/to this airport.

#### **Safety audit by ICAO**

1712. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is due for a safety audit to be conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the measures being undertaken to comply with the audit;

(c) whether it is a fact that the DGCA is understaffed and not able to discharge its functions effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ICAO would be conducting an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) of India to assess and validate the corrective actions taken by India on the findings and recommendations of the audit of India conducted by ICAO in October, 2006.

The audit of October, 2006 resulted in 70 findings and recommendations in the areas of legislation, organization, operations, airworthiness, licensing, aerodromes, air navigation services and accident investigation. The main areas of concern related to shortage of manpower in DGCA, lack of regulation of air navigation services in India, Independence of aircraft accident/ incident investigation and enforcement of aviation regulations. A majority of the findings and recommendations have been implemented.

(c) and (d) No Sir, Though there is a shortage of manpower in the DGCA, it is functioning effectively by engaging/hiring the consultants and technical inspectors on secondment etc.

#### **Flying schools in the Country**

1713. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flying schools in the country and the number of trainees in them;

(b) the training fee being charged per student; and

(c) the number of students who got eligibility certificates in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) There are 44 Flying Schools in the country. The Information regarding number of trainees in these flying schools is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) DGCA does not regulate training fee charged by flying schools.