Policy. Accordingly on 22.12.2011, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation to formulate a Civil Aviation Policy so as to provide a road map for development. The proposed policy shall, along other issues, address the issues relating to passenger/consumers.

(c) The Government has taken several measures to revive the aviation industry and ensure long term viability of the sector.

(1) A Working Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation with Secretary, M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas, Secretary, Financial Services, DGFT, Finance Secretary and Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation as member to discuss the factors causing stress in civil aviation and suggest solutions to the same. Based on its recommendations following steps have been taken by Government.

(i) The issue of rationalization of VAT on ATF, has been taken up with the State Governments.

(ii) Director General of Foreign Trade has allowed direct import of ATF by airlines on actual user basis.

(iii) The Ministry has conducted study of ATF pricing and fiscal structure through experts.

(iv) Foreign airlines have been allowed to invest in the equity of domestic carriers up to 49 percent.

(2) ECB upto $ USD 1 billion has been permitted for the airlines to meet their working capital requirement.

Vacant posts in DGCA

1871. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

(a) the number of vacant posts in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(b) whether at present Government plans to obtain the approval of authorities in addition to the Union Public Service Commission to expedite the process of appointments;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to replace DGCA with the Civil Aviation Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the new body will be established, and what will its jurisdiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) A total of 528 posts are lying vacant against the sanctioned strength of 924. Filling-up of the vacancies is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the laid down procedure.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. It is proposed to create a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to replace the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will have adequate financial and administrative flexibility to meet functional requirements of an effective safety oversight system. The CAA would be created through an Act of Parliament. A draft Civil Aviation Authority of India Bill has been prepared.

Car parking facility at Delhi International Airport

1872. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Joint Venture partners selected to provide car parking facilities at Delhi International Airport (DIAL) were chosen through transparent bidding;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry's Auditor's report states that the concessionaire in this case was selected informally; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dremliner service from Trivendrum

1873. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to cancel AI-465 service from Domestic Terminals of Kochi and Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;