

dated 30-11-2012 and has been posted in BCAS, New Delhi. Suspension of Shri D.S. Sada, Section Officer (now reverted as Assistant) was revoked by MoCA Order dated 30-11-2012 and reverted to the post of Assistant and is posted in BCAS, New Delhi.

(d) The disciplinary proceedings are still underway against the reinstated officials.

**Surrender of leased premises at Heathrow airport by AI**

2640. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has failed to surrender the leased premises at Heathrow airport, which remained unused for nine years;

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

(c) whether failure to surrender the leased premises at Heathrow airport resulted in loss of several crores of rupees to Air India;

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

(e) whether Government would inquire into the matter and fix responsibility in this regard and the loss would be recovered from the guilty;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Air India has been using the leased Cargo warehouse located at the Heathrow Airport since 1968 and the lease agreement is for 50 years *i.e.* up to January, 2019. The aforesaid property was fully utilized till 2008 for Cargo when the Department of Transport, United Kingdom withdrew the regulated status accorded to Air India handling Agent to handle the Cargo from AI warehouse. Subsequent to 2008, Air India is using aforesaid warehouse to keep AI stores, including heavy equipment.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

**New national air cargo policy**

2641. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has finalised a new national air cargo policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether air cargo accounts for over 30 per cent of the total merchandise trade in and out of the country;
- (e) whether adequate capacity is available at airports for increasing air cargo transportation;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the significance of air cargo to the economic growth of the country this Ministry had set up a Working Group on Air Cargo/Express Service Industry. One of the recommendations of the said Working Group is to lay down a comprehensive policy frame work governing air cargo operations in the country. With a view to steer through the reforms suggested in the Report of the Working Group, the Ministry has constituted Air Cargo Logistic Promotion Board an Inter-Ministerial Group.

(d) Yes, Sir. In terms of value, it is over 30 per cent of total merchandise trade.

(e) to (g) The upgradation of facilities at the airport is a continuous process and is done as per the requirements.

#### **Withdrawal of J-class facilities in AI flights to NER**

2642. SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the withdrawal of J Class facilities in Air India flights to the North Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;