

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Decline in passengers traffic from Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy Airports

2650. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline in passenger traffic from Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy airports;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether Government has received any complaints from passengers affected by ongoing work in these airports; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Passenger traffic declined during 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 (April-September) at all the three airports namely, Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy due to global economic slowdown, sharp rise in the prices of ATF, increase in airfares etc. All these factors also led to a reduction in total passenger traffic in the country as a whole.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received complaints from general public at Chennai airport relating to difficulty for car parking in the arrival area due to barricades erected in front of the Terminal Building. These barricades have since been removed and sufficient parking space has been made available.

AAI has not received any complaint from general public at Coimbatore and Trichy International airports and no work is in progress at these two international airports.

Air services between Delhi-Myanmar

2651. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to absence of air services between Delhi and Myanmar, passengers and tourists in this sector are facing great difficulties;

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

(c) whether Government has signed any bilateral agreement for operating flights between New Delhi and Myanmar; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not starting the services as per agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) A revised Air Services Agreement has been signed between India and Myanmar on 28th May, 2012. Taking into account passengers' requirement, M/s SpiceJet has been granted traffic rights (seven services per week) to operate on Delhi-Dhaka-Yangon sector to be operationalized during Winter Schedule 2012-13.

Complaints of NRIs regarding AI flights

2652. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the difficulties faced by the NRIs during their journey by Air India flights;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received by the Ministry; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry to address these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry is receiving complaints from NRI's highlighting their difficulties faced during Air India flights. The complaints mainly corresponds to Kerala-Gulf sector and relates to cancellation of flights, hike in air fare and flight timings etc.

(c) Kerala-Gulf is a strategic market for Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express. Air India Express is trying to hire/recruit dedicated pilots for its fleet so that schedule integrity is maintained. It has chalked out a detailed time bound plan to recruit pilots so that scarcity of pilots can be addressed. Air India Express is a Low Cost Carrier, hence, fare is always kept at a lower level but it has to be commercially viable also. Air India Express also operates additional flights during festival season like Onam, Eid and school vacations to mitigate the difficulties faced by the passengers.