

Setting up of Research and Development Centre

1101. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has tied up with M/s MITRE Corporation, USA for technology and knowledge transfer for setting up a Research and Development (R&D) Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) and M/s MITRE Corporation have signed a MoU in April, 2012, for technology and knowledge transfer for setting up a Research and Development Centre for AAI. The associated areas of technical support broadly include:—

- Objective-oriented, independent CNS/ATM system planning and implementation strategy.
- Specialized advanced aviation management training.
- Air navigation service business case/cost-benefit analysis.
- Technology transfer activities which will include training of AAI personnel on best practices and software tools.

(c) The project is in advanced stage of planning and implementation.

Fictitious booking

1102. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of various unethical trade practices and other irregularities including fictitious booking being indulged in by the airline companies and travel portal and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of rules/regulations/guidelines, governing the operation of airlines/

travel portals with respect to protection of consumers' interest including prohibition of fictitious booking; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government for the protection of consumers' interests and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) received complaints from few domestic airlines in March, 2012 that certain on-line travel portals were selling airline tickets under opaque/bargain fare wherein the identity of the airline and flight details were not being displayed upfront.

(b) and (c) DGCA had stepped in and issued a Public Notice directing the airlines to immediately withdraw participation in any such scheme where the complete information about the carrier is not revealed upfront.

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on Computer Reservation System (CRS)/Global Distribution System (GDS), which has the provision that subscriber shall not make fictitious reservations in the CRS/GDS and shall not resort to any abusive ticketing practice. At present, no scheduled domestic airline is participating in opaque/bargain fares and online travel portals have removed these from their respective websites, as per the information furnished by DGCA.

Deteriorating flight safety standard

1103. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of recent news that "Air India is world's third least safe airlines";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the same;

(c) whether Government has taken note of deteriorating flight safety standard of all Airlines operating in India;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(e) whether safety audits of the country's air traffic control department and all airlines companies are being conducted at regular intervals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and installation-wise?