

(d) if the survey is not correct, the steps Government has taken so that such surveys may not be published in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Germany's Jet Airlines Crash Data Evaluation Centre (JACDEC) has culled data on Air Crashes and Fatalities for the last 30 years after factoring in International Safety benchmarks. During this period, there have been 7 fatal accidents in Air India and one in Air India Charters Limited (AICL). As AICL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, the accident pertaining to it should ideally have not been taken into account for ranking Air India. Hence, the data utilized by JACDEC is factually incorrect.

(b) DGCA has issued 'Civil Aviation Requirements' (CAR), Section 5 on AIR SAFETY providing for Flight Safety Awareness and Accident/Incident prevention programme, which is mandatory for all Airlines to adopt.

Due to consistent efforts in this regard, Air India is the first airline in the country and amongst the first 10 in the world to have the IATA Operational Safety Audit certification, which is a benchmark of aviation safety norms.

(c) There is no impact on passenger load factor on account of this news.

(d) As given in para (a), the data relied upon by JACDEC is factually incorrect. However, it may not be possible for the Government to prevent any independent agency from publishing its report.

Planning for infusion in national carrier

1110. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to infuse Rs. 24,400 crore in Air India for a turnaround plan from 2012-13 to 2016-17;

(b) if so, the reasons for providing a gross budgetary support of Rs. 16,980 crore; and

(c) whether this money is sufficient to take care of the committed infusion in the national carrier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has sought equity

infusion of Rs. 24,425 crore for Air India for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17. However, the Gross Budgetary Support approved is Rs. 15,096 crore.

(c) The matter has been taken up with Planning Commission for enhancement of budgetary support.

Project Air Kerala

1111. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala has decided to go ahead with its Air Kerala project to operate flights to the Gulf sector;

(b) the average cost of initial stages of the project and the annual cost of maintenance of the project;

(c) the challenges to be faced by the State Government operating an airline; and

(d) the ways in which Government plans to deal with the challenges, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Government of Kerala has informed that the Cochin International Airport Ltd. had worked out a project for starting 'Air Kerala' airlines as its subsidiary. However, no formal proposal has so far been received by this Ministry in this regard. Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation in a meeting with the Chief Minister of Kerala agreed to consider any such proposal, in case received from the Government of Kerala.

Airport Development Fee

1112. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has once again imposed the Airport Development Fee at various airports which was cancelled earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such a fee being allowed to be collected and cancelled in the first place; and