

Levy of fuel surcharge on cargo

788. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that domestic carriers have formed a price cartel and exploiting the levy of fuel surcharge on cargo by not applying a rational policy mechanism for the same;

(b) the details of increase in fuel surcharge on cargo per kilogram by various domestic carriers *vis-à-vis* hike in prices of Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure a transparent mechanism for cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No such information is available in the Ministry, as such information is not maintained by the Government.

(b) The Ministry does not fix the air cargo fares and they are determined by the market forces of demand and supply.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to promote aviation industry in general and Air Cargo in particular include:

(i) Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the issue of hike in ATF prices with Oil Marketing Companies through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(ii) Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the issue of reduction of VAT on ATF with various State Governments.

(iii) Government has set up Air Cargo Logistics Promotion Board as an Inter-Ministerial Group to *inter-alia* review, on a continuous basis the general and sectoral policy regimes governing Air Cargo Logistic operations with a view to remove bottlenecks to efficiency.

Modern equipments for proper visibility at airports

789. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that visibility is a crucial factor of safe landing for pilots of aircrafts;