

(b) if so, the details of the proposal submitted by the Government of Mauritius and whether the Indian Government has since examined the proposal and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to prevent the misuse of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) has been a subject matter of review since 1996. India had proposed amendments to the DTAC including Capital Gains and Limitation of Benefits (LOB) for prevention of treaty abuse. Government of Mauritius did not accept these proposals. A Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising members from the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius was constituted in 2006 to inter-alia, put in place adequate safeguards to prevent misuse of the India-Mauritius DTAC. However, the issues remained unresolved.

In 2011, Government of India again sent a detailed proposal for amendments of various articles of DTAC including Capital Gains and LOB. In response to this, Government of Mauritius sent their proposal in 2012 which did not satisfactorily address the concerns of Government of India. Thereafter, in April, 2013, Government of Mauritius sent another proposal on LOB Article to Government of India. Government of India has examined the Mauritius proposal and has sent detailed comments in May, 2013. Response of Government of Mauritius is awaited.

Government of India proposes to continue with efforts to find a mutually satisfactory solution to address India's concerns.

Skidding off runway by AI plane at the Bagdogra airport

*246. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India plane with 140 people on board has recently skidded off the runway shortly after landing at the Bagdogra airport, and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has conducted any investigation into it, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Air India flight AI-879 operating on Delhi-Bagdogra route on 05.07.2013 landed safely. However, after exiting the runway and entering the taxiway at a substantially lower speed the aircraft's right wheel went into the soft land and got stuck. The aircraft was then recovered by towing. There were 118 passengers, two cockpit crew and five cabin crew on board. There was no injury to any person and no major damage to the aircraft.

(b) Based on preliminary inquiry, the Captain and First Officer of the flight have been put off flying duties pending final investigation by the Permanent Investigation Board (PIB) of Air India along with Director of Air India Safety (Western Region) of DGCA.

Villages not connected to power grid

*247. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which are not yet connected to any power grid, State-wise;

(b) the total number of villages in the country in which grid connectivity for electrifying through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) is neither feasible nor financially viable, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the measures Government has taken or proposes to take to connect such villages to the power grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government of India launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in April, 2005 and since then electrification works in 1,07,497 un-electrified villages and 2,99,690 partially electrified villages have been completed under grid based projects. Besides, electrification works in 5475 un-electrified villages and 83169 partially electrified villages are under execution. State-wise details are given in Statement-I (See below).

Another 88,000 villages are proposed to be covered under grid based projects during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period. Villages where grid connectivity is neither feasible nor financially viable are covered under De-centralized Distributed Generation (DDG) component of RGGVY.