

performance of an operational NPP is continuously monitored in compliance with regulatory guidelines. A consolidated safety assessment of the plant is undertaken while renewing the operating licence. In addition, the NPPs have an established programme of operating experience feedback.

(c) and (d) The safety system of nuclear power plants is established and enforced in India with Safety Codes, Safety Guides, Safety Manuals and Technical Documents developed by the AERB, which are prepared in line with the IAEA Safety Documents. The safety standards followed in India in respect of NPPs are consistent with global best practices.

(e) All the NPPs in India are under continuous regulatory surveillance by AERB. In addition to the prescribed safety review assessments, comprehensive safety audits of all Indian NPPs against external events were undertaken by AERB and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. following the Fukushima accident. The Operational Safety Review Team of IAEA reviewed RAPS Units 3 and 4 in 2012 at the invitation of the Government.

Construction of heliports to improve connectivity

3883. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enhance the present operations of helicopters and construction of heliports at various places to improve connectivity of smaller places with bigger cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the places identified for the purpose in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the time by which regular operations of helicopter services to small cities are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) Recognising the significant role of Helicopter operations in the Country, the Government has taken a number of steps which include the following:—

- (i) Pawan Hans Limited has been set up as a Government Company with the Primary objective of providing helicopter services *inter-alia* to operate in hilly and inaccessible areas and make available charter flights for

promotion of travel and tourism. Pawan Hans Limited is providing regular helicopter services for State Governments, of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Lakshadweep Administration. In addition, Pawan Hans is also operating commercial services on Vasihnodevi (for whole year), Kedarnath and Amarnath (during yatra season).

- (ii) Pawan Hans Limited has undertaken development of heliports at Rohini, Delhi and Hadapsar Gliding Centre, Pune. It has also constructed helipad at Commonwealth Games Village (Akshardham), Delhi. However, at present no heliports in Madhya Pradesh are under consideration.
- (iii) Besides, Pawan Hans, a number of Non-scheduled operators are engaged in the provision of Helicopter operations in the country.

Committee to work out additional aviation safety

3884. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted some Committee to work out additional aviation safety;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this Committee has laid down certain rules and regulations for safety in the air both for the men and the machine;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) with the closure of Kingfisher Airlines, what is the action plan to create additional passenger carrying facilities that have been lost as a result of the above closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation has constituted a 'Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council' (CASAC) in May, 2010 and it was reconstituted *vide* order dt. 16.07.2012. Copy of the order is given in the Statement (*See* below).

- (c) No, Sir. The scope of the council is advisory in nature.
- (d) Does not arise.