

(b) The most common defects reported by the pilots were intermittent, unreliable and unserviceable weather Radars, which show no echoes, weak echoes or ground echoes etc.

(c) There have been no diversions due to weather radar defects. In case of a suspected malfunction of Weather radar system in flight, a pilot has to follow the recommended procedure as per the flight manual. Due to redundancy of weather radar system in these classic A320 aircraft, the probability of such occurrence is very minimal.

(d) For issues affecting flight safety, the manufacturer or regulatory authority comes out with advisory circulars and mandatory modifications. Though one radar system is sufficient for safe operation, these aircrafts have two independent radar systems for redundancy and safety. Since there is no safety issue in this case and as there are no such mandatory modifications recommended from manufacturer/DGCA in respect of weather radar, no action is proposed to be taken.

Usages of virtual currencies

*282 DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has examined the issues associated with the usages, holding and trading of virtual currencies including bitcoins under the extant legal and regulatory framework of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in the matter keeping in view the use of these virtual currencies in money laundering, terror financing, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India is presently examining the issues associated with the usage, holding and trading of Virtual Currencies, including bitcoins, under the extant legal

and regulatory framework of the country, including foreign exchange and payment systems laws and regulations.

Keeping in view the developments relating to certain electronic records claimed to be 'Decentralised Digital Currency' or 'Virtual Currency', such as Bitcoins, litecoins etc., their usage or trading in the country, and various media reports in this regard, RBI issued a Press Release on 24.12.2013, cautioning the users, holders and traders of virtual currencies, including bitcoins, about the potential financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks that they are exposing themselves to. The public at large has been informed that the creation, trading or usage of virtual currencies as a medium for payment are not authorized by any central bank or monetary authority. No regulatory approvals, registration or authorization have been obtained by the entities concerned for carrying on such activities. As such, they may pose several risks to their users.

Consumption of power/electricity in the country

*283. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of power/electricity consumed annually in the country *vis-a-vis* other developed countries of the world;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to ensure the power/electricity security of the country;
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide minimum electricity to the entire population in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The total electricity consumed in the country during the year 2011-12 was 785.2 Billion Unit (BU) and the corresponding consumption in some developed countries for the latest available calendar year 2011 is given below: