

The timeline for construction of airport projects depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure, etc. by the individual operator.

Sale of Boeing 777 Aircrafts by AI

2489. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the proposal of Air India (AI) to go ahead with the sale of its five long haul Boeing 777 aircrafts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the sale proceeds would be utilized by Air India to partly meet its huge debt and liabilities of over Rs. 20,000 crore; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the proposal to sell 5 B777-200LR aircraft of Air India to Etihad Airways for an amount of USD 336.5 million (Rs. 2019 crores).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A large part of the sale proceeds of these aircraft will go towards repayment of aircraft loans and the balance surplus generated will be utilised by Air India for its working capital requirements.

Vacant posts in PSUs and DGCA

2490. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that top posts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Ministry are lying vacant for quite some time;
- (b) if so, the names of such PSUs and reasons for not filling these posts with regular incumbents; and
- (c) the details of efforts being made to fulfil the vacant posts of top executives in various PSUs and DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The post of Chairman in Airports Authority of India became vacant on 23rd January, 2014. Ministry of Civil Aviation is taking steps for filling up of this post. In respect of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Shri Prabhat Kumar, IAS (UP: 1985) has been appointed as DG, DGCA for a period of three years with the approval of ACC vide letter dated 24th January, 2014. However, in respect of CMD, Pawan Hans Limited, ACC vide its letter dated 30.01.2014 has conveyed approval of extension of the additional charge of the post of CMD, PHL to Shri Anil Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, for a period of six months beyond 21.12.2013, or till the appointment of regular incumbent, whichever is earlier.

Hiring of professionals by DGCA

2491. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made a proposal to allow the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to hire experienced professional and technical staff directly from market instead of from formal UPSC recruitment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has warned the DGCA regarding downgrade personnel and asked to provide a report of compliance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. DGCA has been allowed to appoint Flight Operation Inspectors (FOIs) on *ad-hoc* basis on contract against newly created regular posts.

(c) to (d) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assigned Category 2 rating to India based on the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) audit carried out by FAA in September, 2013 and review conducted in December, 2013 on the actions taken by India to address the findings.

The Category 2 has been assigned primarily due to the finding related to lack of sufficient number of regular FOIs in DGCA resulting in DGCA's inability to have