THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) Board has approved recarpeting of runway and Cat-III B lighting system of Ahmedabad airport at an estimated cost of ₹ 73.64 crores. AAI has earmarked an amount of ₹ 17.92 crores in the BE 2014-15 for this work.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Planning Commission in its Financing Plan of Airports has recommended in July, 2012 for taking up the operation and management of 6 airports including Ahmedabad Airport through Private Public Partnership model.

(f) The PDC for work related to Cat-III B approach lighting system and recarpeting of runway is 31st March, 2016.

Windshield cracks incidents in dreamliners

136. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the series of incidents of windshield crack in the dreamliners during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The on-going investigation by Boeing indicates that moisture ingress has resulted in an increased rate of occurrence. A new window design with improved features is in progress to reduce such incidents. The occurrences experienced on the airplanes were cracking of the non-structural outer glass ply, which does not affect the safety of the airplane due to the windshield's "fail safe" (multiple-layer) construction.

(c) Air India has taken up the issue with Boeing, who have informed that old windshields shall be replaced by new windshields with improved design features.

Airport dues of Air India

137. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mumbai Airport Authorities have put Air India on a cash-and-carry mode after its dues mounted to 450 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;