

- Promulgation of model code of conduct due to general election of Lok Sabha and assembly elections in several States which delayed sanction of funds.
- Insufficient proposals received from States and UTs especially from North Eastern States for Scholarship Schemes, because many minority students also belong to Scheduled Tribe (ST) Category and have the option to avail scholarship under the schemes meant for STs. As a result, the unutilized funds for North East had to be surrendered as per existing provision.

#### **Agusta Westland Chopper Deal**

\*489. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has arrested or proposes to arrest any persons or firm, both domestic and foreign, connected with the Agusta Westland Chopper deal, which was scrapped in January, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed that no arrests of any accused person *i.e.* Indian or foreigner have so far been made in the criminal case registered by it relating to VVIP/VIP helicopters procurement. Directorate of Enforcement has also not made any arrest so far in the case registered by it in the matter.

Investigation Agencies take a decision about arrest as and when it is found appropriate and necessary to arrest any accused person.

#### **Duping of AI by travel agents**

\*490. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of travel agents had duped Air India of crores of rupees during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the names of travel agents and amount involved therein and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future and also to recover Air India's dues from such travel agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) and (b) There have been defaults by travel agents in the last 2 years in making payments to Air India. The details are as under :-

## Total Default on Air India

F.Y. 2012-13 ₹ 13.37 crores

F.Y. 2013-14 ₹ 72.28 crores

The details of outstanding dues, amounts recovered alongwith names of the agents are given in the Statement (*See* below). The recovery process is on through IATA Billing Settlement Plan (BSP), invoking Insurance/Bank Guarantee (BG) and legal recovery proceedings wherever required.

(c) The following steps are taken by Air India to recover the default amount and to avoid occurrence of such incidents in future :-

- (i) The total amount recovered for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 is ₹ 22.53 crores.
- (ii) The agent's access to Air India's reservation system and to BSP is blocked in order to deny the agent from processing any refund of the tickets issued to them.
- (iii) Negotiations are held by officers of Air India with the defaulting travel agents to resolve the issue and recover the dues.
- (iv) Termination of agents from IATA BSP is done subsequently.
- (v) IATA BSP is informed to invoke the Financial Insurance coverage.
- (vi) Legal action is taken for recovery, wherever necessary.

**Statement***The details of outstanding dues, amount recovered alongwith names of the agents*

Agent Name	Station	Total Default Amount on Air India in INR Crores	Amount Recovered till date	Total Unrecovered amount on Air India
<b>Defaults during 2012-13</b>				
*SMG Princess Travel Service	Delhi	3997919	No recovery till date	3997919
*Purshottam Bhagwan & Associates	Goa	14456843	No recovery till date	14456843
Saint Travel Seviles	Delhi	105993852	No recovery till date	105993852
Indian Travels	Delhi	3792220	No recovery till date	3792220
*India International	Delhi	1150579	No recovery till date	1150579
*Yes Travels	Delhi	2929280	No recovery till date	2929280
*EC Travel House	Chennai	1337296	No recovery till date	1337296
TOTAL		133657989	0	133657989
	in crs	13.37		13.37
<b>Defaults during 2013-14</b>				
Aerojet Travel Services	Bengaluru	1092491		1092491

Aerujet Travel Services	Delhi	595806915	224200000	371606915
*Airzip Holidays	Bhubaneswar	4319257		4319257
*Dolphin Travel P. Ltd.	Delhi	9657757		9657757
Jay Surya Overseas	Delhi	1119597	1119597	0
*Gulf Travels	Delhi	10940073		10940073
*Shree Sati Travels Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	99883785		99883785
TOTAL		722819875	225319597	497500278
	in crs	72.28	22.53	49.75
TOTAL FOR 2 YEARS IN INR		856477864	225319597	631158267
TOTAL FOR 2 YEARS IN INR CRS		85.65	22.53	63.12

\* The recovery processes through IATA BSP Insurance/BG Coverage is being pursued. Also, Air India is separately following up the matter with agents to recover money.

*Written Answers to*

*[12 August, 2014]*

*Starred Questions*

*31*