

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has restored all aircraft operations by 17.10.2014, *i.e.*, within 5 days by providing temporary make-shift arrangements like covered sheds/ tarpaulin for passenger movement, isolation of work zones from passenger movement areas for ensuring passenger safety, etc.

(d) In order to ensure safety of the airport and its infrastructure, AAI has taken steps for installation of seamless type double layer roofing arrangements and new structural glazing to withstand higher wind velocity upto 250 km/hr.

Wheel chairs for ailing air passengers

943. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the sick passengers travelling by air to produce medical certificate to avail wheel chairs at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to mitigate such inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As per Para 4.1.26 of Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section -3 Air Transport, Series M, Part-I for "Carriage by Air of persons with Reduced Mobility", Passengers with disability or reduced mobility are required to inform airlines at the time of booking of air ticket about their requirements for assistance. However, separate requirement to produce medical certificate, for availing wheel chair facility by sick passenger, have not been specified in the CAR, and hence it is not mandatory.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued Air Transport Circular 1 of 2014 on Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports. The Circular mandates the provision of automated buggies free of charge for all senior citizens, expectant mothers and disabled passengers in the terminal building to facilitate their access to boarding gates located beyond reasonable walking distances at all airports having annual aircraft movement of 50,000 or more. This facility may be extended to other needy passengers on demand basis free of charge.

Disinvestment of Air India

944. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plans to disinvest the national carrier Air India (AI);