

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) On 31st January, 2014, Federal Aviation Administration informed DGCA that India has been placed in Category 2. The downgrade to Category 2 means that the country's safety oversight system is lacking and does not meet minimum standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

(b) Government has approved 75 positions of regular FOIs in DGCA. The process to fill up these posts has been initiated.

(c) The training programme for the inspectors has been improved as per requirements and the processes/procedures for approval and surveillance of air operators have been revised. The newly appointed FOIs have been given improved indoctrination training and have been given On-the-Job training in accordance with improved procedure manuals.

(d) Yes, Sir. An estimated ₹ 40 crores would be needed annually for the newly created positions of inspectors.

#### **Development of international airports in Gujarat**

184. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been requesting to Central Government for development of international airports in Gujarat apart from this existing Ahmedabad international airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the updated status of action taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether Government has again received representation from the State Government during the last six months for development of various airports in Gujarat and to start new flight services to and from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government intends to accede to the request from Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had requested for development of Surat and Vadodara airports.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is constructing a New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) at Vadodara airport and has plans for extension of runway at Surat airport.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. AAI has received requests for upgradation of Vadodara and Surat airports as International Airports and for transfer of Deesa airport to the State Government for operation and maintenance. AAI has informed its willingness to lease the airport to the State Government on the condition that requisite land for development of Ahmedabad and Porbandar airports are transferred to AAI.

However, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

#### **Drunken passengers on flights**

185. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a drunk and abusive man was tied to his seat on a flight from Australia to Delhi recently by crew members;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many such hullabaloo incidents occurred due to drunken passengers in Air India (AI); and

(d) if so, whether Government's response thereto and directions issued to AI staff to tackle such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One passenger seated on 11B of AI-302/ Delhi-Sydney flight of 14.10.14 was shouting and insisted on upgrade to club class. The passenger was inebriated, and displayed abusive language and aggressive behaviour with the crew. The passenger created inconvenience for the other passengers of the flight. Later he was handed over to Sydney police.

(c) 5 such instances have occurred in AI flights since September, 2014.

(d) Section 23 of Aircraft Rules 1937 empowers the Commander of an aircraft to take action against any person for assault and other acts which may endanger safety of the aircraft or person on board or jeopardize good order and discipline on board. DGCA has