

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government takes decision on the setting up of Airlines subject to applicable laws/regulations, security and other conditionalities related to air transport operation and FDI Policy.

Pending dues payable to AAI by Kingfisher Airlines

1144. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ₹204.69 crore is due to Airports Authority of India (AAI) from Kingfisher Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by AAI to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The outstanding dues recoverable from Kingfisher Airlines by Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on date, of filing the suit are ₹294.69 crore, which includes, principal amount ₹ 175.30 crore and interest amount ₹119.39 crore.

(c) AAI has filed a Recovery Suit No. 597 of 2014 on 14.03.2014 in the High Court of Judicature at Mumbai against Kingfisher Airlines.

Use of mobile phones in the flights

1145. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on giving permission for use of mobile phones in the flights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by which time this will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal with this Ministry. However, Rule 29B of Aircraft Rules, 1937 regulates the use of portable electronic devices, including mobile phones, which *inter alia* states that Pilot-in-Command may permit the use of cellular telephone by the passengers of a flight after the aircraft has

landed and cleared active runway, except when the landing takes place in low visibility conditions. Further Civil Aviation Requirements Section-5, Series-X, Part-I permits the use of mobile/cellular phone in non-transmitting mode *i.e.* Flight/Airplane mode during flight.

Wildlife strikes at airports

1146. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that wildlife strikes at airports have increased alarmingly in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any action plan to tackle the alarmingly increasing wildlife strikes at airports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) In the year 2017, 1125 wildlife strike incidents have been reported. The year-wise wildlife (Bird/Animal) strike incidents are as follows:

Year	No. of wildlife strike incidents	Wildlife strike rate per 10,000 movements
2015	764	4.86
2016	839	4.57
2017	1125	4.71

(c) and (d) Government has accorded highest priority for ensuring safety of aircraft from wildlife strike. Following actions have been taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ensure safety of aircraft from wildlife:

- Wildlife (Bird/Animal) strike to air craft has been identified as one of the State Safety Priority.
- Airfield Environment Management Committee has been constituted at every airport.
- Apprised administration of all the State Governments, through communication to the Chief Secretaries of the States on the importance of the compliance of Rule 91 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.