

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 3536
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th April 2022)

SEIZURE OF AAI AMOUNT HELD BY IATA

3536. DR. SANTANU SEN
SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware of the Swiss court order of the seizure of the amount held by International Air Transport Association (IATA) on behalf of AAI on an application by Deutsche Telekom;
- (b) the details of the legal action being taken by Government against the order;
- (c) whether Air India is still involved in Dewas Multimedia case;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has tried to settle the Dewas Multimedia case and, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. An amount of USD 2.75 Million (approx.) held by International Air Transport Association (IATA) on behalf of Airports Authority of India (AAI), as on 24.03.2022, has been ordered for seizure by the Swiss Court.

AAI has engaged a Counsel to represent it before the Swiss Court. Ministry of External Affairs has also issued a Note Verbale to Swiss Government informing the position of the Government of India on the assignment of charges collected by IATA on behalf of AAI.

(c) & (d): Air India continues to be a party to Devas Multimedia case in USA and Canada. The amounts garnished by IATA for the period prior to date of disinvestment are yet to be released by the Court.

(e): The Antrix-Devas dispute arose from the agreement entered into on 28.01.2005 by and between Antrix Corporation Limited and Devas Multimedia Private Limited, India (Devas). The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 17.01.2022 upheld the decisions of the NCLT dated 25.05.2021 and

08.09.2021, and ordered the winding up of Devas. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held the agreement dated 28.01.2005 to have been signed in contravention to Indian laws in a fraudulent manner.

Since a serious case of fraud and corruption are involved, the awards are being contested worldwide both at the seat of the Awards and also other enforcing Courts.

Government of India has engaged Counsels in all jurisdictions and has filed appeals against the garnish orders.
