GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 642
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024)

PROTECTION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS FROM CYBER THREATS

642.   SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA

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

(a) the details regarding the steps undertaken by Government to make sure that Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) Towers are properly protected from possible cyber security threats;
(b) the details regarding fund of allocated and utilized to ensure that ATCs are protected from all possible cyber breach over the last four years, especially airports in Maharashtra; and
(c) whether Government keeps a record of cyber security incidents in ATCs, if so, details regarding the total number of such incidents over the last four years and actions undertaken to resolve the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): The Airports Authority of India (AAI) ensures compliance of standards set by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) for securing and protecting its data and systems including Air Traffic Data, from cyber threats. Also Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has provisioned National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP) which requires Airport Operators, Airlines, Air Traffic Service providers and related service and enforcement agencies to identify and develop appropriate measures in order to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of critical information and communication technology systems and data used for civil aviation operations.
Additionally, Ministry of Civil Aviation issues various security advisories, updates, alerts viz cyber threats/vulnerabilities and counter measures to protect computers, network, browsers, operating systems and data bases received from NCIIPC and CERT-In to concerned entities from time to time for necessary action.

(b): Costs related to cybersecurity measures are budgeted under Airport Authority

of India's head of expenditure for Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems .

(c): As per records maintained, no cybersecurity incidents have been observed in the ATC automation systems in the last four years.

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