

[22 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, what are the details of such investigation; and

(d) whether such employee is still working with Air India and whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken against such employee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (A) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter reported to Air India by the Canadian High Commission in 1997, has been investigated and based on the enquiry report submitted by the security department, New Delhi, Shri R. K. Sharma was chargesheeted for misconduct under clause 19(2) (IV) and (XXXXVI) of the certified standing orders as applicable to him. Acting upon the findings of the enquiry Committee, the competent authority passed an order of "Reduction to a Lower Post"(Aircraft equipment operator) and "Reduction by three stages in the pay scale". Proceedings against Shri R. K. Sharma are in progress at the Hon'ble Patiala House Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

3248. SHRI TARINIKANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any demand regarding upgradation of Bagdogra airport in northern part West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have taken any initiative to explore the same considering the strategic location of the airport; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to upgrade the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There is a demand for declaration of Bagdogra Airport as international airport.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already constructed a new terminal building at the civil enclave at Bagdogra airport at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crores. The Terminal is equipped with modern facilities to cater to five hundred passengers at a time and has facilities for handling limited international operations *e.g.* Customs, immigration, conveyor belt and X-ray BIS. The national carriers Air India and Indian Airlines, can operate

international flights from Bagdogra even without declaring the airport as international. Similarly, tourist charter flights can also operate to airports having customs, Immigration facilities.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plan to expand apron to accommodate four A-320 type of aircraft at a time.

Knowledge of English for International Pilots

3249. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made it compulsory that pilots of foreign airlines operating at Indian International Airports must know English to avoid misunderstanding in communications;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to avoid the risk of accidents in mid-air and protocol violation because of wrong communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government had taken up the matter regarding proficiency in English Language for radiotelephony communication in 32nd Assembly Session of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) held in Montreal in October, 1998. During the Assembly Session, a resolution was passed to strengthen the relevant provisions of Annex 1 (Personal Licensing) and Annex 10 (Aeronautical Telecommunication) to obligate contracting States to take steps to ensure that Air Traffic Control personnel and flight crew are proficient in conducting and comprehending radiotelephony communications in the English language. In addition, based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the mid-air collision on 12.11.1996 near Delhi, (i) carriage of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) has been made mandatory in Indian air space on all aircraft (including foreign airlines) having more than 30 seats or payload capacity of more than 3 tonnes and (ii) high density AirTraffic Service (ATS) routes have been realigned into unidirectional arrival/departure corridors.