

[English]

Remarks About Air India in MIT Study

9909. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI:
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the 'The Telegraph', Calcutta dated the 10 February, 1990 regarding certain adverse remarks about Air India in MIT study;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The MIT for the period 1976-86, while dealing with accidents and fatalities of various carriers, compared the safety aspects of international carriers without going into the reasons for accidents. The accident to Air India aircraft 'Emperor Kanishka' due to act of sabotage has been included in the statistics, thereby drawing the incorrect inference that Air India is the riskiest airline. Air India is taking appropriate action, in consultation with the lawyers in USA, in regard to this report. Air India has an excellent safety record compared to any other international

carrier and there has been a substantial reduction in its accident insurance premia.

Enquiry into D. V. C.'s Gas Turbines Deal

9910. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government had objected to Damodar Valley Corporation's Rs. 52.48 crore deal to purchase Gas Turbines as it faced difficulties with the Gas turbines run by the State Electricity Board;

(b) whether the Gas turbine units are seldom being run by the DVC because of huge operational costs.

(c) if so, how it is proposed to utilise these Gas turbines;

(d) whether any enquiry has been instituted into this deal; and

(e) if so, the stage where the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The Damodar Valley Corporation had entered into an agreement with M/S GE, USA on 7.4.1987 for supply and creation of 3 x 30 M^W Gas Turbine Units, for being installed at Maithon, at a cost of US\$ 27,024, 329 plus Rs. 57,196,697. The foreign exchange component of the cost is being funded by a loan from EXIM Bank, USA after following the prescribed procedures. The gas turbines are primarily meant for meeting peak load demand and/or as stand-by arrangement. The units at Maithon are operated by DVC accordingly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.