

(b) if so, whether there are any plans to acquire/purchase aircraft from foreign sources; and

(c) whether tenders/negotiations are taking place and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The aircraft capacity available with Vayudoot at present is normally adequate to sustain the existing level of operations. The temporary lose of capacity due to unforeseen groundings, however, affects the operations at time.

(b) and (c). To meet the capacity requirement for the planned expansion and to replace the ageing turbo-prop fleet and thus ensure better services, Vayudoot proposes to induct new generation 50 plus seats aircraft. The details have not yet been firmed up.

Delay in departure of flights of Indian Airlines

114. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the general complaints regarding frequent delay in departure and cancellation of flights of Indian Airlines, causing great hardship to the passengers, besides financial losses to the Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in departure of different types of aircraft of the Indian Airlines by more than one hour during the current year till 30 November, 1989;

(c) the details of cancellation of flights of different Aircrafts of Indian Airlines with their reasons during the said period;

(d) the financial losses involved due to

the cancellation of flights; and

(e) the concrete steps taken or being taken to improve preventive maintenance of aircrafts to avoid such delay/cancellation of flights?

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

(b) During the current financial year till 30th November, 1989, in Indian Airlines, approximately 8% delays were on account of aircraft maintenance and handling, 8% due to inclement weather, airport facilities and other reason attribute to functioning of other agencies and the remaining 84% delays were consequential delays.

(c) Out of a total of 2108 cancellations during the current financial year, upto 30th of November, 1989, which makes 2.4% of the total departures, 130 flights were cancelled due to aircraft maintenance and handling, 803 due to weather, misc. and other reasons and 1175 flights were cancelled due to consequential reasons.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the loss due to cancellations of flights as on such occasions, large number of passengers travel by alternate schedule services of Indian Airlines. However, Indian Airlines incurs expenditure of passengers towards hotel accomodation, food and transportation. The expenditure on this account during 1989-90 (upto November, 1989) is estimated at Rs. 2.95 crores.

(e) A preventive maintenance programme based on the manufacturer's recommendations and as approved by the Director General, Civil Aviation is followed by Indian Airlines. In addition, all technical delays are investigated and suitable action is taken to avoid recurrence.