

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There was no loss of life or injury to anybody in this accident.

(b) and (c). This accident occurred due to removal of permanent way fittings by miscreants. No railway staff has been held responsible.

(d) Important steps taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents are :—

- (i) patrolling of track;
- (ii) burring of fish bolts whereby after the nuts are tightened on the bolts, the threads on the bolts are destroyed and the bolt cannot be removed without using chisel;
- (iii) reducing the number of fish-plated joints by welding of rail joints; and
- (iv) State Government has been requested to take effective steps to prevent miscreant's activity affecting railway assets and operations.

Fire safety at Indira Gandhi International Airport

392. **SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO** : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a report submitted by senior officials of the Fire Engineering Division to the Chairman of the International Airports Authority of India almost all fire safety systems, worth over Rs. 70 lakhs at Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal are in a pathetic condition;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made and responsibility fixed for it; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) During routine inspections at the time of installation, certain deficiencies were noticed in the new Fire Fighting System being installed at the Indira

Gandhi International Airport, which have been pointed out to the contractors for rectification. The system will be taken over by the I. A. A. I. only after a detailed demonstration and acceptance test. Till then, the existing system will continue to be used for meeting any emergencies.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Central Port Authority and Ports Development Fund

393. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has since been taken to set up a Central Port Authority and Ports Development Fund to streamline the functioning of the various ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of AI and IA

394. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH** :
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
DR. B. L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the proposal for the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) what action plan has been drawn up to implement the proposal if finally decided by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI