

**Medium Capacity Long Range Aircrafts**

443. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have decided to appoint three committees to consider the question that Air India should buy the *medium capacity* long range aircrafts in the light of the recommendations of Sahul Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the three committees set up;

(c) the issue that each committee will consider; and

(d) the time by which these three Committees will submit their reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Mid Air Collision**

444. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents of mid-air collision occurred during the year 1996 and 1997 till date, date-wise;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted or is being conducted in each such case by the Government;

(c) if so, the findings thereof, accident-wise;

(d) the details of progress made in the modernisation of air traffic control services at Delhi airport;

(e) whether the Government propose to construct two separate corridors for incoming and outgoing flights at the airport to avoid the recurrence of such accidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) There was no mid-air collision on 12th November, 1996 during the said period.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The inquiry has been conducted by Justice R.C.Lahoti of Delhi High Court. The Court of Inquiry has since submitted its report which is under examination of the Government.

(d) All civil and electrical works and installation of sub-systems at Delhi airport for modernising the air traffic

control services have been completed. The Site Acceptance Test of all sub-systems has been conducted. System Site Acceptance Test (SSAT) has been carried out in May, 1997. Efforts are on for commissioning the system by 31st January, 1998.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Two corridors for ATS routes G-452 from Delhi to Karachi, A-466 Delhi to Lahore, A-474 Delhi to Bombay have already been bifurcated for incoming and outgoing flights. Separate corridor for route R-460 from Delhi to Calcutta will be undertaken shortly with Air Hqrs., to release the airspace for bifurcation of ATS route W-19/20 from Delhi to Madras.

[English]

**Loss of Luggage**

445. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases reported regarding loss of luggage/valuables of the air passengers after landing at the Calicut Airport during the last two years;

(b) the action taken in each case; and

(c) the number of such cases settled so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) 22 cases of loss of luggage have been reported at Calicut airport during the period 1.10.95 to 31.10.97. The following action is taken by the airline as soon as the loss of baggage is reported :

(i) Passengers' irregularity report is issued.

(ii) All India tracer messages are immediately sent.

(iii) Baggage is delivered to the passenger on its retrieval.

(iv) Settlement action is taken in case baggage is not located .

(c) Out of 22 cases reported, claims were received in respect of 16 cases, out of which, 8 cases have been settled.

**Increase in Air Fares**

446. SHRI MADAN PATIL :  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have also started increasing fares and freight from the month of October, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the fares increased sector-wise alongwith the date of increase;

(c) whether other private airlines have also sought permission to raise their fares; and

(d) if so, the details of the private operators that have increased their air fares and freight ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air domestic fares were increased with effect from 15th October, 1997 as under :

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| (i) (a) North Eastern Sectors | 10.5% |
| (b) Rest of India             |       |
| Sectors upto 700 kms.         | 14.0% |
| Sectors above 700 kms.        | 10.5% |
- (ii) The differential between the Executive and Economy Class fares has been kept at 50%
- (iii) The total amount to be collected from passengers in INR has been rounded upto the next higher multiple of Rs.5/-.
- (iv) Excess Baggage Rates have been revised accordingly.
- (v) Basic Cargo Rates have also been revised accordingly.

(c) and (d) Airline operators are free to charge fares based on commercial considerations.

#### **Transfer of General Managers**

447. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had ordered transfer of two General Managers in September, 1997 immediately after the railway accident took place;

(b) if so, whether these transfers were greatly opposed by the Railway officers who went on mass casual leave in protest;

(c) the loss suffered by the railway as result thereof;

(d) whether he had taken a serious view and has ordered a break in service of those official who went on mass casual leave;

(e) if so, the total number of railway officers involved; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Government had decided to transfer General Manager South Eastern Railway and General Manager Central Railway in administrative interest.

(b) and (c) In the wake of transfer orders, though a few officers had proceeded on casual leave but it was ensured that normal Railway working was neither affected nor allowed to suffer.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and on receipt of the same further action will be taken as per rules on the subject.

(f) All the Railway servants are governed by the Railway Servants (Conduct) Rules and action in terms of these Rules is taken wherever warranted and permitted by the Rules.

#### **Revamping of Bokaro Steel Plant**

448. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the tough competition with new competitors in the Steel market, Bokaro Steel Plant is planning to tap the emerging automobile and white goods sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the SAIL has approached any foreign company for the revamping of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) whether any American company has agreed for setting up of an electro galvanising unit at Bokaro ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Bokaro Steel Plant is getting orders from the automobile and white goods sectors. These sectors require Extra Deep Drawing (EDD) grade of steel, the production of which will further improve after completion of 1st stage modernisation of the Bokaro Steel Plant.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) USS Engineers & Consultant (UEC), an American Company visited Bokaro Steel Plant in September, 1997 to study the feasibility of modernisation of galvanising line. No concrete proposal has been received.