GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION Lok Sabha UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4607 (TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31st March 2022) COMMISSION OF RAILWAY SAFETY

4607. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) is working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to avoid direct subordination, justification in administration and for maintenance of independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency in safety of rail travel train operation and investigation of railway accidents and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the justification for keeping CRS, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) under the Ministry for the same reasons and creating discrimination between two sets of Central Government agencies therefor; and

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to merge all such investigative bodies under the Home Department and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), erstwhile known as "Railway Inspectorate" was placed under the administrative control of the "Department of Posts and Air" in May 1941 on the basis of the recommendations of Pacific Locomotive Committee (1939) that the Railway Inspectorate should be separated from the control of Railway Board. CRS has remained thereafter under the administrative control of the Ministry concerned with Civil Aviation.

Unlike Railways, the Civil Aviation sector operations include private and foreign airlines, airports under Airports Authority of India (AAI)/Private sector/Public Private Partnership/Joint Venture and other stakeholders which include both private as well as Government (Public Sector Undertakings (PSU)). Further, the Civil Aviation sector functions in a realm which transcends national boundaries and requires adherence to prescribed standards and practices of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). DGCA, AAIB and BCAS are attached offices of Ministry of Civil Aviation with adequate autonomy. Moreover, all the safety/security related rules/guidelines issued by DGCA, AAIB and BCAS are subject to audit by ICAO.

(c): There is no such proposal under consideration.

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