

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) According to the traffic projections taken into account while finalising the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, the growth rate of international passenger traffic at Indian airports would be:—

1996-1997 to 1999-2000 : 7%

2000-2001 to 2004-2005 : 6%

2005-2006 to 2011-2012 : 5.5%

2012-2013 to 2016-2017 : 4.9%

(b) and (c) The requirement of additional facilities at International Airports are reviewed periodically and expansion and upgradation works undertaken accordingly to meet the demand of growing traffic. Saturation of facilities at International airports at Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram is therefore not expected in the near future. However, at Mumbai Airport, even after the expected commissioning of Terminal II-C in August, 1999, airport facilities are likely to get saturated due to land space constraints. Hence, the Government has constituted a Committee to examine the feasibility of setting up a second airport at Mumbai. The report of this Committee is awaited.

(d) The Policy on Airport Infrastructure has identified Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati airports for upgradation to international standards. A Task Force has been set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman. Planning Commission to look into this aspect.

Air services from Amritsar to U.K., Europe and Canada

162. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN:
SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate direct flights from Amritsar to

destinations in Europe, United Kingdom and Canada for the benefits of Punjabis settled or working there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Because of shortage of aircraft capacity and insufficient traffic potential, Air India is unable to provide direct international flights to Amritsar. Air India is, however, operating twice weekly hub and spoke flights between Delhi and Amritsar and which provide connections to Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York, Chicago and Moscow.

Non-clearance of Tata Airlines proposal

163. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance to the Tata Airlines proposal is being delayed even though it meets all the criteria listed in this regard; and

(b) the salient features of Government criteria and which ones are not being met by the Tatas?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) On 1st September 1998, M^s Tata Industries have withdrawn their proposal submitted in December, 1997 to operate domestic scheduled air transport services.

Salient features of the policy on domestic air transport services sector are enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

Salient features of new domestic air transport policy

1. Foreign equity upto 40% and NRI/OCB investment upto 100% would be permitted in the domestic air transport services.

2. Equity from foreign airlines will, however, not be allowed directly, or indirectly, in the domestic air transport services.*