

Investment by Foreign firms in power projects in Assam and N.E. Region

*340. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign firms have been permitted to invest for prospecting for power projects in the state of Assam and in other states of N.E. Region of the country;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith the names of the firms and the area earmarked for this purpose, District wise, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared these proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) . The Government has recently reviewed the existing guidelines for automatic approval for foreign equity for electric generation, . transmission and distribution projects, and has decided to enlarge the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. These guidelines apply equally to the whole of the country including Assam and the North-Eastern States. As per information available, no proposal has been received for permission to invest for prospecting for power projects in Assam and the North-Eastern States of the country nor has any such proposal been cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Airlink to Solapur (Maharashtra)

2481. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Solapur in Maharashtra, where a well maintained air-strip already exists which had earlier been operative, has also been or is proposed to be linked with Mumbai, Nagpur and other stations; and

(b) if so, since when, and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Vayudoot earlier started Dornier services between Mumbai and Solapur from 7th March, 1987 but these were discontinued in September, 89 due to shortage of aircraft capacity and inadequate load.

No scheduled airlines are operating any flight to/from Solapur.

The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

पटना और सिलीगुड़ी विमानपत्तनों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन का दर्जा

*2482. श्री शिखू सोरेन: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे की:

(क) क्या सरकार पटना और सिलीगुड़ी (बागडोगरा) विमानपत्तनों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन का दर्जा प्रदान करने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक:

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है नहीं है कि वहां पहुंचने वाले अनेक विदेशी यात्रियों और पर्यटकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इन दोनों विमानपत्तनों को अन्तराष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन का दर्जा दे दिया जाना चाहिए ?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार) : (क) से (घ) पटना विमानपत्तन को, सीमित अंतराष्ट्रीय प्रचालनों के लिए सभी आधुनिक सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित एज आदर्श विमानपत्तन के रूप में पहले से ही विकसित कर दिया गया है।

बागडोगरा विमानपत्तन रक्षा मंत्रालय का है और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण वहां एक सिविल एन्क्लेव का अनुरक्षण कर रहा है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण 11.43 करोड़ रूपए की लागत पर आधुनिक सुविधाओं सहित एक नये टर्मिनल भवन का निर्माण कर रहा है। कार्य के अक्टूबर, 1999 तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है। इस समय इस विमानपत्तन का अंतराष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन के रूप में स्तरी न्यून किए जाने हेतु विचार नहीं खीया जा रहा है।

Upgradation of Chennai International Airport

2483. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chennai International Airport is located at a strategic point for providing air services to important places in South Asia, Gulf and also the European countries';

(b) whether the facilities/passenger amenities available in this airport are at par with that of international standard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The facilities provided are-Free luggage trolleys, Wheel Chairs for disabled passengers, Bank/ Money Exchange Counters, Postal/ Telegraph facilities, Prepaid taxi service and car rental, Airport-city-Airport

shuttles (air-conditioned/non-a/c coaches), Tourists Information, Hotel Booking, Left luggage, Retiring room/dormitory accommodation, Restaurant/ Snack Bar, (in all Passenger Terminals), Coffee/Tea/Cold drink Vending Machines, Duty Free shops, Bookshop, Computerised flight information display boards and colour CCTV system and PA system for flight information of passengers, PCOs for local/STD/ISD calls (manned and unmanned), Free local call telephone facility in all security hold areas, as well as international arrival area and international transit lounge. Reserved Lounge/Ceremonial lounge for VIPs/VVIPs, Child care/Infant lobby, Lost & found property facility, Aerobridges, Convevor belts for baggage handling, Escalators and lifts.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Airport

2484. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to develop the Trivandrum Airport to an International Airport with modern facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Thiruvananthapuram airport is already an International airport and has all the modern facilities. The following development works have been undertaken at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport:—

(1) Extension of Apron is likely to be completed in December, 1996;

(2) Air-conditioning of the international terminal building is likely to be completed in December, 1998; and

(3) Interim modification to the terminal building is likely to be completed in March, 1999.