

plans of Druk Air to start operations to Bagdogra in Summer 2009. During the bilateral air services meeting with Bhutan held in July 2008, Bagdogra was granted as an additional point of call for designated airlines of Bhutan and they were informed that at least three months notice would be required to put in place the required facilities for operation of international services upon receiving the request from Government of Bhutan. Airports Authority of India has initiated action to accommodate meeting the requirements of proposed international operation by M/s Druk Air.

New runway at Delhi airport

†120. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airlines companies are displeased with the commissioning of the new runway (29-11) for flights at Delhi airport;

(b) whether Government has made any inquiry to ascertain the causes of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new runway being situated very far away from terminal not only causes the wastage of time but also the wastage of fuel;

(d) whether the new runway has facilitated the take off and landing of flights during foggy weather; and

(e) the action taken by Government to redress the grievances of airlines' companies and relieving the people living in the vicinity from noise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) With the opening of new runway 29/11, there is no effect on taxiing time for the International Arrival flights. However, the taxiing time for Domestic Arrival flights has increased by 7-10 minutes but the hovering time of these flights has reduced significantly, which has saved time as well as fuel for the airlines.

(d) Runway 29/11 is equipped with Cat.III-B ILS which can facilitate aircraft landing and takeoff upto an RVR of 50 meters, during foggy weather.

(e) Measures are in place by Delhi International Airport Private Limited like installation of noise sensors at number of places in the vicinity of airport for studying the noise level.

Facilities at Rajasansi airport

†121. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance international air services and facilities at Rajasansi airport, Amritsar for the convenience of pilgrims, tourists and Non-Resident Indians coming from all over the world to visit holy shrine of Sikhs, Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar;

(b) if so, by when it will be finalized and the names of countries from where direct flights to Amritsar are under consideration;

(c) whether Government is aware that a few airlines have cancelled their services;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to curb the arbitrariness of such airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Air India and its subsidiary, Air India Express operate regular services to/from Rajasansi Airport, Amritsar linking Amritsar with Delhi within India and London, Toronto, Sharjah and Dubai internationally. Further, Amritsar is already available as a point of call to many foreign countries which include Slovak Republic, Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Iran, Jordan, Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, USA, UK, Mexico, Chile, Israel and Qatar. Government is aware that some international airlines have discontinued their flights to/from Amritsar. However, actual operations by airlines are based on commercial viability and priorities.

Night landing facility at Kanpur airport

122. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is inadequate night landing facilities at Kanpur (Chakeri) airport and the sole flight to Kanpur is frequently diverted to Allahabad or Lucknow;

(b) if so, what Government is doing to improve infrastructure at Kanpur airport;

(c) whether Government would introduce airbus on this route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Kanpur (Chakeri) airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF). Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave at this airport to handle civil traffic. ATC facilities are also provided by IAF. The airport is equipped with basic night landing facilities, which are adequate for IAF operations.

(c) and (d) At present, Alliance air is operating six flights a week to Kanpur from Allahabad and Delhi with ATR aircraft. The type of aircraft to be operated by airline on a particular route is decided by them in their commercial judgement depending upon traffic, availability of aircraft etc. Air India presently has no plans to introduce airbus services to Kanpur due to capacity constraint.

FDI in aviation sector

123. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Aviation Sector has slowed down to 5 per cent growth after witnessing 35 per cent growth in the past two years;

(b) whether cash-starved private carriers are advocating easing of investment rules so as to allow their foreign peers to pick stake in domestic carriers; and

(c) whether Government who holds 100 per cent equity in Air India would consider to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in domestic carriers to help the aviation sector to tide over the crisis caused due to low yields and fewer passengers?