

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airlines is at a preliminary stage.

Proposal for Air Kerala

128. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to operate a Budget Airline 'Air Kerala'.

(b) if so, what are the conditions pertaining to the operation of international flights;

(c) whether Government would consider relaxing the condition considering the ownership as the State Government; and

(d) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Though no proposal for formation of any airline by the name 'Air Kerala' is pending with the Government for clearance, the Government of Kerala had informed that a public limited company, 'Air Kerala International Services Limited' has been registered as a Special Purpose Vehicle for a budget airline project. Government of Kerala requested this Ministry for exemption to the proposed airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations. This request was not considered in the light of the existing Government Policy regarding the minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services.

Implementation of APIS

129. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to implement an Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) making it mandatory for carriers flying into the country to transmit key passenger information including the background of the passenger before their flight take off for Indian destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some international carriers have expressed reservation about his Ministry's requirement of the format in which the data is to be transmitted and have asked to re-examine the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) at