

Direct flight from Nanded to Delhi and Amritsar

2590. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a demand to have a flight of Indian Airlines to Nanded in Maharashtra from Amritsar and Delhi;
- (b) whether Government could consider extending Delhi-Aurangabad flight to Nanded;
- (c) what is the present air connectivity from Mumbai to Nanded; and
- (d) whether Government would give priority to this historic religious destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Suggestions have been received in the past from various dignitaries/VIPs to introduce air services between Nanded and Amritsar/Delhi.

(b) The extension of Air India's daily services on the Delhi-Mumbai-Aurangabad route to Nanded would involve many stops and change in the timings of the flight, resulting in timings less preferred by the passengers. Moreover, study as to the number of passenger demand is yet to be estimated.

(c) Kingfisher Airlines is operating scheduled air services on the sector Mumbai-Nanded-Latur-Mumbai (thrice in a week).

(d) Air India had operated 7 services during 29.10.2008 to 4.11.2008 on the Amritsar-Delhi-Nanded & v.v. route to enable the pilgrims to travel to/from Nanded to attend the tricentenary celebrations. However, Air India does not have any plans to introduce regular scheduled air services to/from Nanded. Nevertheless, Domestic airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of the route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government and depending upon the traffic demand and their own commercial viability.

Selling of land by AAI in Mumbai

2591. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has given permission to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the private company, MIAL, to sell away 200 acres of land in the western part of Mumbai recently;
- (b) what are the reasons for selling away this land at this juncture;
- (c) whether Government would get a major share from the sale proceeds if the land is sold;
- (d) if so, the details of this deal;
- (e) whether land of such value can be transferred in this manner for the benefit of private shareholders and private beneficiaries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?