

(d) The availability of aircraft for scheduled operation has improved considerably and the Winter Schedule of Indian airlines effective October, 2006, has been planned with 39 A-320 aircraft, 2 A-300 and all 6 A-319 aircraft. Efforts are on to increase engine availability so that optimum utilization of aircraft, as per laid down norms, is achieved.

Parking problem at Dabolim Airport

2881. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether taxi owners are charged Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/- per month for parking their taxis at the Dabolim Airport;

(b) whether the Airports Authority of India has closed access to the taxis which were being parked in a privately owned plot nearby the parking plot of the AAI;

(c) whether it is a fact that taxi owners face undue harassment from the contractor nominated to collect parking fees;

(d) whether these tussles among taxi owners, contractors, AAI and security personnel vitiate the pleasant atmosphere in Goa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(e) Does not arise.

New building for airport at Ahmedabad

2882. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project of Rs. 291 crores is prepared for the construction of new building for international airport at Ahmedabad and is pending for clearance from Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs; and

(b) by when Government propose to complete the project for new international airport at Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is proposed to be completed within 18 months from the date of commencement of the work.

Restoration of air services from Surat

2883. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the MoU signed by AAI and the State Government of Gujarat, the project for development of Surat Airport was to be completed by September, 2005;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in the execution and completion of development works of Surat Airport;

(c) whether it is a fact that operation of the civil carrier airline Air Deccan has been stopped abruptly at the Surat Airport in July, 2005; and

(d) by when the Airports Authority of India will restart the facility of operating flights from Surat airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Initially, the development was proposed for smaller aircraft like ATR-72. Considering the demands from State Government of Gujarat, Members of Parliament and others, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has revised the scope of the work for operations of wide bodied aircraft like B-737-800/AB-321. Further extension of runway by 725 m has also been approved. The cost of the project has been revised from Rs. 35.30 crores to Rs. 49.50 crores. Rain/Flood and non-performance by the contracting agency have also caused delay in extension/widening of runway phase I.

(c) Yes, Sir. Air Deccan withdrew operations from Surat Airport with effect from 21.7.2005.