

(1S December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(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.

(d) As soon as the development of Surat Airport is completed (Expected to be completed by June, 2007), the airport will be ready for aircraft operations.

**Opening of Karwar Airport for civilian air services**

2884. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to open up the Karwar airport (Sea Bird Project) to civilian flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local residents have already contributed substantially towards the land requirement of the Sea Bird Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to bear the cost of acquiring the additional 75 hectares of land required for extending the runway and for its construction and maintenance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

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

(b) The State Government of Karnataka has requested to permit operation of civil flights of AB-320 type of aircraft at the proposed new airport associated with Project Seabird at Karwar of Indian Navy. The Indian Navy has asked for additional land from the State Government for extending the runway for operation of civil commercial flights of AB-320 aircraft. At the request of the State Government, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out the site inspection and given suggestions regarding orientation/location of runway and extent of additional land required for extension of the proposed runway to 2500 m.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected.

(e) and (f) The State Government has informed that an additional 75 Ha.