

Open skies regime

1210. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is expected to firm up the open skies regime with India in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to be accrued to the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Night landing facilities at North East Region airports

1211. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry would arrange to facilitate the night landing and taking off aircrafts from the Tezpur, Lakhimpur, Mohanbari, Silchar, Imphal and Dimapur airports in the North Eastern area considering the importance of International Border Area from National and International security point of view; and

(b) whether his Ministry would examine to facilitate with introducing an air route from New Delhi, Guwahati, Jorhat and Dibrugarh in view of the needs of the people of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) Airports Authority of India has already provided ground lighting facilities at Lakhimpur (Lilabari), Mohanbari, Silchar, Imphal, Lakhimpur and Dimapur. However, clearance for night operations at these airports is to be obtained from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). AAI has not provided ground lighting facilities at Tezpur airport. For night operations at Silchar and Tezpur airports, clearance is to be obtained from Indian Air Force (IAF) since these airports are under control of IAF.

(b) Scheduled air services are already available to/from Delhi to Guwahati and Dibrugarh and to/from Guwahati to Jorhat by Alliance Air and Jet Lite.

In addition, Government has laid down the Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulations of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air service to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Outstanding fuel bills of NACIL

1212. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has emerged as the biggest defaulter with an outstanding fuel bill of Rs. 1725 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take some drastic steps to recover the fuel bills from the NACIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) and (b) The outstanding fuel dues of NACIL till the end of January, 2010 was Rs. 1741 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government has advised NACIL to clear these dues expeditiously.

Sale of air tickets by travel agents

1213. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 85 per cent of air tickets in the country are sold through travel agents at a fixed commission of upto 5 per cent;

(b) whether foreign airlines operating in India had done away with the fixed commission model for travel agents, replacing it with a transaction fee model ranging from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 5000/- based on the ticket price;

(c) whether Government has taken any final decision on restoring the fixed commission regime for travel agents on sale of tickets of foreign airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) This Ministry does not maintain such data. However, bulk of the airlines tickets are sold through travel agents, who are paid commission by the airlines at a mutually agreed rate.

(b) IATA Agents Association of India (IAAI) and the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) have reported that several foreign airlines have replaced the commission by the transaction fees to be paid to the travel agents by the customers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

User development fees at airports

1214. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to levy User Development Fees (UDF) on all airports of the Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?