

#### **Madurai airport as customs airport**

2605. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to declare Madurai airport as a Customs Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Madurai airport is a domestic airport for operation upto AB-320 class of aircraft. At present there is no proposal to declare this airport as Custom Airport due to space and capacity constraints. However, the New Integrated Terminal under construction will have the facility for international operations.

#### **International Airport in Himachal Pradesh**

2606. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up an international airport in Himachal Pradesh under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode to give a boost to tourism in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when international airport is likely to set up in the State;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the proposal to extend the runway at the Shimla airport is still lying pending; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) At present, there is no proposal for setting up Greenfield airport in Himachal Pradesh under Public Private Partnership.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The extension of runway at Shimla airport requires modification in the scope of work as it involves extensive cutting of hillock and filling the available cut earth in valley portion for the safe operation.

#### **Engagement of private security guards at airports**

2607. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task of screening check-in cargo has been assigned to private security agencies at most of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the CISF has warned against security lapses following the engagement of private security guards for screening cargo at airports;

(c) if so, whether in view of the recent discovery of a crude bomb aboard a Kingfisher Airlines plane, Government proposes to plug such security loopholes at airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. The screening of cargo has been assigned to concerned aircraft operators and Regulated Agents approved by Government of India. The Regulated Agents are approved after following the prescribed procedure laid down for such approvals.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken in view of Kingfisher Airlines incident.

(d) Instructions on frisking/searching of ground personnel before entry to aircraft has been reiterated to all concerned.

#### **Difficulties of passengers at Chennai Airport**

2608. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the major Aircrafts in India are like a crowded Bus Stand with lack of Infrastructural facilities, toilet, sitting accommodation for waiting passengers, screening and security facilities;

(b) whether for want of adequate C.I.S.F. personnel at the screening and security zone at Chennai Domestic Airport, the screening and security operations, through facilities available could not be undertaken resulting in long queues of waiting passengers;

(c) whether the C.I.S.F. Security personnel are indifferent, impolite and lethargic in their tasks making the passengers wait unnecessarily; and

(d) what is the mechanism available to supervise their functions and behaviours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. Basic facilities like toilet, sitting accommodation for waiting passengers etc. are available at all major airports. Adequate screening facilities and security facilities have also been provided.