

airports. Besides it has been decided to modernise 35 non-metro airports. These airports are located at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Vishakapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu and Pune.

Distance between domestic and international airports

723. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is considerable distance between domestic and international airports in the country which causes lots of inconveniences besides time to travellers;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps to address the inconveniences to air travellers;

(c) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Domestic and International terminal buildings at the international airports at Delhi and Mumbai are separated by some distance.

(b) Free transport is provided to the passengers for transfer from domestic to international terminal and *vice-versa*.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Delay in flights of Indian Airlines

724. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay of almost all flights of Indian Airlines could the Minister make a statement how many flights of Indian Airlines flew in time from all destinations during the last three months;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is no direct flight to Trivandrum from Delhi for more than two months; if so, the reasons for it and how long it would continue like this; and

(c) whether as promised a flight to Delhi in the morning from Trivandrum would be operated soon in addition to what was there previously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 58.55% of Indian Airlines flights were on time during the last three months; i.e. April, 2006 to June, 2006. Of the 41.45% delays and cancellation, 2.86% were due to commercial, operations, engineering, ground support, surface transport, stores related reasons, 2.30% due to inclement weather, airport facilities etc., and the remaining 36.29% due to consequential delays.

(b) Due to shortage of aircraft and operating crew, Indian Airlines has had no choice but to curtail/restructure many of the flights in its network. The flight IC 167 scheduled to operate on Delhi-Mumbai-Trivandrum route is temporarily operating on Mumbai-Trivandrum sector effective from 6th April, 2006 as a part of this curtailment/restructuring exercise. Passengers travelling from Delhi to Trivandrum are provided connections via Mumbai. Indian Airlines plans to restore the normal operation of this flight as soon the aircraft availability improves.

(c) Presently, Indian Airlines is unable to operate a morning flight from Trivandrum to Delhi due to shortage of aircraft and operating crew.

Development of Trivandrum airport

725. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Trivandrum International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for this purpose?

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