

(b) to (d) As per bilateral air services arrangements with USA and UK, the designated airlines of USA and UK are entitled to operate to/from any point in India including points in Kerala. However, actual operations by any airline is always guided by its commercial judgement.

**International status for Surat airport**

1648. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Surat airport be considered as an international airport;

(b) if so, the airlines operating the international and domestic flights and along with the destinations thereof from the airport;

(c) whether Surat made its presence on international aviation map merely on the basis of one or none flights; and

(d) whether the maintenance and upkeep of the airport has not been upto the mark?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, six flights are operated per week by Air India on the Delhi-Surat-Delhi sector.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) No, Sir. Upkeep and maintenance of an airport is a continuous process depending upon traffic demand, number of flights, commercial viability etc. Surat airport has been upgraded to accommodate A 321 type of aircraft operations and functional for domestic operations. At this airport, various facilities are available namely (i) Runway of length 2250 m, (ii) Instrument Landing System (ILS) facility, (iii) A new Terminal Building, and (iv) New apron to accommodate 4 A 321 type of aircraft.

**Incidents of air-miss**

1649. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airports in India have witnessed several "air-miss" in the recent past;