

(d) AAI has proposed to bring all buildings at the airports under the National Building Code fire protection measures. All Airport In-charges have also been advised to strictly enforce the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement and also to carry out periodic inspection of the premises as per the Agreement.

Encroachment near Airports

†11. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many a habitation located illegally on encroached land near several airports in the country are creating a lot of problems for air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are going to take with regard to above habitations?

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

(b) Encroachments are causing problems for air traffic at various airports such as Kota, Lucknow, Mumbai, Rajkot, Malda, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approached the concerned State Governments to remove the encroachers. In Malda a case has been filed in the Court for eviction. In Guwahati also eviction proceedings have been initiated. Some hutments have recently been cleared at Juhu Airport at Mumbai. In 2003, amendment of AAI Act of 1994 was carried to provide for setting up of Tribunals to expedite cases relating to encroachment.

Induction of SARAS Aircraft

12. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how long it will take for SARAS (14 seats indigenous) aircraft to take to its wings on regular passenger flight; and

(b) whether the earlier test flight on August 22, 2004, was successful,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[1st March, 2005]

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if so, to what extent and for how many passengers and crew it is considered fit for passenger flight and the progress made in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It will take about 2 1/2 to 3 years from now for the SARAS aircraft to obtain its Type Certificate from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and be ready for regular passenger flights.

The aircraft had its successful maiden test flight on 29th May, 2004 and the formal test flight took place on 22nd August 2004. In all 14 test successful flights have been conducted to establish basic flying qualities, stability and control aspects, handling characteristics and system functionalities.

The prototypes are not outfitted to carry any passengers as they carry a substantial amount of flight test instruments. Passengers can be carried only after the aircraft obtains its certification. The production version of SARAS which will be available during 2007/2008 will have the capacity to carry 14 passengers and sufficient fuel to give a range of about 800 Kms.

Catering Services at Airport

13. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that middleclass people and other service personnel also use airports in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has not encouraged any shops or catering places to be set up for people who cannot afford high prices eatables at our airports;

(c) the reasons for the Airport Authority of India not inviting the Coffee Board, the Tea Board and other such experienced organization to run some shops and catering places at our airport in the country; and

(d) what steps will be taken by Government to ensure that all categories of passengers are catered to by the AAI?

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

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has encouraged shops and