

(d) With estimated cost of approximate Rs. 5 crores, the procurement action is in progress.

(e) Approximately 25% more aircraft can be handled after the installation of RDPS.

(f) It is expected that the RDPS will be installed by December, 2005.

Flying Academies

2788. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flying colleges/Academies run by Central Government/ Government Corporations/Public Sector Units in the country;

(b) whether these Flying Academies are able to produce the required number of pilots; and

(c) whether Government would open more flying academies to train more youth to become pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 39 flying training institutes in the country. Of these, 27 institutes are covered under the subvention scheme of Government of India and 11 are owned by private parties. Besides, there is Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, an autonomous body under the administrative Control of Ministry of Civil Aviation, imparting flying training.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) if necessary, Government would open more flying academies.

Abandoned Airports in Tripura

2789. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the State Government of Tripura to hand over abandoned airports in the State to the State Government for the use of Government institutes;

(b) if so, the details of the airports; and

(c) the decision of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There was a proposal from the Government of Tripura to handover the existing unused airport at Khowai to the State Government for non-aviation activities. The matter was examined and was not acceded to by Airports Authority of India (AAI) because as per AAI Act, no airport owned by AAI can be transferred to State Government or any other agencies for activities other than aviation purposes. Currently, the matter is under examination at the Government level.

Operation of Air India Express

2790. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Express (AIE), a subsidiary of Air India, has set to operate/to be operated as a low cost, no frills airline;

(b) if so, the details including destinations to be operated during the year 2005-06;

(c) whether baggage that is allowed to be carried by passengers is same as allowed in other airlines operating in the same destination;

(d) if not, whether action will be taken for the same; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to prepare a blueprint for future so as to make AIE as a flagship rather than a subsidiary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India Express would offer lower fare structure overall with basic services such as pre-set meal, in flight entertainment etc. on Board. The proposed destinations to be operated by the airline during the year 2005-06 are from Kozhikode, Kochi, Delhi, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram to certain points in Gulf region viz. Dubai Abu Dhabi, Al-Ain, Muscat and Salalah.

(c) and (d) Air India Express would be offering 30 kgs. as free baggage allowance which is more than the standard practice of 20 kgs.