

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has permitted airline operators to utilize the services of professional pilots upto the age of 61 years (beyond the maximum age limit of 60 years) subject to the conditions that (i) Pilot should have clean medical record *i.e.* no medical limitations on license privileges, (ii) Pilot should undergo fresh Class I medical assessment from IAM Bangalore/AFCME New Delhi every 3 month. Exemption for flying beyond 60 years is granted on case to case basis on the recommendations of the duly constituted Board consisting of Principal Director — Medical Services (Specialist), IAF, as Chairman with Director of Operations (Training & Licensing) and Representative of Chief Flight Operations Inspector as Members.

(c) Retirement age of pilots in USA and France is at 60 years, while it is 65 years in UK.

Abandoned airstrips

3419. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of abandoned/unused airstrips in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to repair and use all or some of these airstrips for commercial purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The list of abandoned/unused airstrips owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the country, State/Union Territory-wise is as follows: Aizwal in Mizoram; Akola, Hadapsar and Sholapur in Maharashtra; Asansol, Bellurghat, Behala, Cooch Bihar and Malda in West Bengal; Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh; Chakulia in Jharkhand; Cudappah, Donakonda, Nadirgul and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh; Deesa in Gujarat; Hassan and Mysore in Karnataka; Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh, Jharsuguda in Orissa; Jodbani, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul in Bihar; Kailashar, Kamalpur and Khowai in Tripura; Panna, Khandwa and Satna in Madhya Pradesh; Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh; Rupsi and Shella in Assam and Vellore in Tamil Nadu.

[26 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. AAI is in constant endeavour to operate and upgrade the airports depending upon the requirements of airlines/traffic.

Enquiry into helicopter accident in Saharanpur

3420. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Ministers of the Haryana Government were killed in a helicopter crash on 31st March, 2005 in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have instituted an enquiry into the helicopter crash;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indian Air Force has offered its assistance in probing the helicopter crash; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Minister of Haryana Government received fatal injuries during accident to M/s India Fly Safe Aviation Ltd. EC-120B helicopter VT-VYJ near Sarsawa on 31.03.2005.

(c) and (d) The accident is under investigation by Inspector of accidents under Rule 71 of Aircraft Rule, 1937.

(e) and (f) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has not received any such offer from Air Force.

Cargo handled by Chennai Airport

3421. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in export cargo from Anna International Air Terminal, Chennai in the year 2005-06;

(b) the details of international freight airlines which are carrying cargo from Chennai alongwith the cities connected by them; and

(c) the plans for expanding the nearby non-metro airports in order to decongest the Chennai Airport?