

(a) whether Government proposes to procure new aircrafts, keeping in view increasing population in the country;

(b) whether Air India and Indian Airlines are operating their flights through self-owned fleet from all the small and big airports of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of Government aircrafts flying in the country;

(e) whether sufficient number of aircrafts are available in the country keeping in view the increasing population; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir. The aircrafts are procured by the airlines.

(b) and (c) Air India and its Subsidiary Companies are at present operating 108 owned and 27 leased aircrafts.

(d) Air India and its Subsidiary Companies have 166 aircrafts in their fleet.

(e) and (f) At present, the industry passenger load factor is 78% on the domestic network, which indicates that number of aircraft available can meet the demand of travelling public.

Construction of new terminal at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

15. DR. T.N. SEEMA:

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the new terminal at the Thiruvananthapuram International airport has been completed;

(b) if not, by when it will be completed and opened for traffic;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have any plan to levy additional user fees from the passengers using the new terminal; and

(d) if so, whether Government would advise the AAI against levying the user fees in view of the increased burden on the low income workers in Gulf countries belonging to Kerala and Tamil Nadu?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Before opening of the new terminal for traffic, a trial run without passengers was carried out on 18.10.2010 and a trial run with passengers was carried out on 2.11.2010. The new Terminal Building is likely to be commissioned by end of November, 2010.

(c) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority has approved to levy User Development Fee (UDF) @ Rs. 755/- per embarking international passenger purely on an ad-hoc basis with effect from the date of commissioning of New International Terminal building at Trivandrum airport.

(d) No, Sir.

Reinstatement of suspended Air India employees

16. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the thirty two Air India employees who were suspended in May this year would be reinstated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of contracted workers in Alliance Air would be absorbed in the organization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Air India is taking action against the suspended employees as per the Rules. Revocation of suspension is being decided on a case to case basis.

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal to absorb the contractual workers in Alliance Air.

Restoring recognition of Air India employees unions

17. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: