

[16 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

toll free number working round-the-clock has been introduced for most of the travel related requirements. Reconfirmation can also be done through Air India Website.

(f) The average number of passengers travelling daily by Air India from IGI Airport Terminal-2 is approximately 1500.

Expansion of air service from Bhopal

3192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on some proposals for commencing air services on some new routes;

(b) whether Government would consider air service from Bhopal to Kolkata in view of increasing demand for the same; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services, taking into account the need for air transport services, of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places, including new routes, depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability and subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines does not have any plans to introduce direct air services between Bhopal and Kolkata at present.

Construction of airport at Gulbarga

3193. SHRI K. B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to construct airport at Gulbarga District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many acres of land is required for this project;

(c) what is the total estimated cost of the project;

(d) how much amount has been provided in the budget for the current year 2006-07;

- (e) how much time will be required for the completion of this airport work; and
- (f) what is the contribution of Karnataka for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The State Government of Karnataka has proposed for construction of a Greenfield airport at Gulbarga in Karnataka.

(b) A total of 667.2 acres of land is required for the project.

(c) Cost of the project has not been worked out.

(d) No provision has been made in the budget for the current year 2006-07.

(e) Land is yet to be handed over to Airports Authority of India (AAI) by the State Government of Karnataka. Therefore, no time frame can be fixed at this stage.

(f) Government of Karnataka has agreed to acquire and hand over the total required land to AAI free of cost and free from all encumbrances and also to contribute Rs. 20 crores towards the cost of the project.

X-ray machines at airports

3194. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not taking steps to ensure that the maximum number of X-ray machines operate at all times to screen baggage at security points at all airports;

(b) the reasons for allowing one screening X-ray machine for hand baggage to operate at Hyderabad and other airports; and

(c) the specific reasons on why more X-ray machines are not operational at all airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the requirement of flights and availability of space in the Security Hold Area (SHA) required number of X-ray machine have been installed at the airports in the country.

Details of X-ray machine provided at Hyderabad Airport are as