

Airports in Madhya Pradesh

†496. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports owned by National Airports Authority of India in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of airports out of them, proposed to be constructed in line with international standard and the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal from Government to provide air services from Madhya Pradesh to South India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) There are seven airports namely Indore, Bhopal, Khajuraho, Jabalpur, Satna, Khandwa, Panna and one civil enclave in Gwalior owned and maintained by Airports Authority of India in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) All the above said airports have been developed in line with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)/International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards.

(c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places including airports in Madhya Pradesh depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Panna air strip in Madhya Pradesh

†497. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Panna air strip is recorded in the name of Department of Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh in the revenue records;
- (b) if so, whether the airstrip has been transferred to Madhya Pradesh Government by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, by when it will be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Strikes by agitating AI pilots

498. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has knowledge of the losses incurred by Air India due to recent strike by the agitating pilots;

(b) the number of pilots involved in the strike, details thereof;

(c) the action taken against any of the pilots of AI who had gone on strike and were found to be involved in illegal activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The estimated revenue loss suffered by Air India on account of the recent strike is around Rs. 200 crores.

(b) The pilots of the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) went on strike during 27.4.2011 to 6.5.2011 which led to disruption of large number of flights.

(c) and (d) Air India terminated 6 pilots and 3 executive pilots. Apart from this, 7 pilots were suspended and also the union of ICPA de-recognized. However, later suspension and de-recognition has been withdrawn. No salary has been paid to the pilots for the strike period.

Funds for ferrying VVIPs

499. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has demanded special funds for ferrying VVIPs;

(b) the amount of the special funds; and

(c) the reaction/action of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Air India has requested for payment from the Government for maintaining a fleet of 3 Boeing 747 aircraft for VVIP special section operations.