

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Flying Training School (GFTS) at Jakkur, Bangalore is facing a risk of closure as the DGCA has established that Jakkur Airport is unsafe for flying fixed wing aircraft due to the ongoing construction of the elevated road on the national highway; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to save the school, a heritage school founded in 1948 by the then Maharaja of Mysore, that gave the country its first woman pilot?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) During the audit of Government Flying Training School, Bangalore by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, construction activity was noted in the vicinity, which may affect runway length availability for operations.

(b) The Government of Karnataka which owns the airfield, is aware of the problem and has initiated action by forming a Committee to examine the issue.

#### **Compensation for Mangalore air crash**

1273. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala High Court has ordered the Air India to pay a minimum compensation of Rs.75 lakh to the legal heirs of each of the victims killed in the May 22, 2010 Mangalore crash; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kerala High Court *vide* its order dated 20.7.2011 in WP(C) No.32550 of 2010 (P) has declared that the petitioners are entitled to have a "Minimum of 1 Lakh SDR) as compensation payable under the statute, based on the Montreal convention, treating the matter as "No fault liability), which can in no case be absolved or limited by the carrier under any circumstance. The order of the Court is being examined by Air India.

#### **Direct air service from Surat**

1274. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce direct air service from Surat to Mumbai, Kolkatta, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Agartala and Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private airline also proposes to introduce similar service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) At present, Surat is air linked with Delhi only by Alliance Air.

Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

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 including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

#### **Renaming of Madurai International Airport**

1275. SHRI PRAMOD KUREEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to name the Madurai International Airport in the name of either Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar or Immanuel Sekharan;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) At present there is no plan to rename the Madurai International airport in the name of either Baba Saheb Dr B. R. Ambedkar or Immanuel Sekharan.

#### **Raxaul Airport**

1276. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a necessity to review Government's stand with regard to making Raxaul Airport functional in view of the unpleasant activities in the bordering areas being undertaken by China; and

(b) if so, by when the airport is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Raxaul airport in Bihar belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Since, there is no traffic potential, commercial viability and firm commitment of airlines operators to operate through this airport, at present, there is no proposal to start operation at this airport.

#### **Financial crunch in Air India**

1277. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: