

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: