

FDI cap for foreign airlines

*60. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under the Ministry of Commerce has circulated a proposal recommending allowing foreign airlines to pick up stakes in domestic carriers with 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per extant FDI policy, as contained in Circular 2 of 2011-Consolidated FDI Policy issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), no foreign airlines would be allowed to participate directly or indirectly in the equity of an Air Transport Undertaking engaged in operating Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Air Transport Services except Cargo airlines. A proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by foreign airlines in Domestic Airlines is under examination of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Damage to Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project

311. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious concern about the damage to the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project with blockades creating a major impediment in ensuring that the plant systems functioned at a minimal level;

(b) whether it is a fact that local sentiments are being exploited by environmentalists from Finland, Australia, France and the United States; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government is taking to allay the fears of the villagers of the Kudankulam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Recently there have been protests against the starting of Kudankulam nuclear power project by sections of the local people which have hampered normal work at the site. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants (KKNPP) Units 1&2 are at advanced stage of commissioning. Several reactor and auxiliary systems have been made functional. These systems, which also include sophisticated computer based systems, require certain minimum maintenance to keep them in a healthy state. Efforts are underway, in consultation with the