

### **Greenfield airports**

**\*49. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has developed greenfield airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent for this purpose;
- (d) the demands still pending with the Ministry for such airports; and
- (e) the action plan prepared in this regard for the remaining Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Three international Greenfield airports have been developed under Public Private Partnership which are as follows:

1. Shamshabad near Hyderabad by Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL)
2. Devanhalli near Bangaluru by Bangalore International Airport Private Limited.
3. Cochin by Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL).

(c) and (d) For development of a Greenfield airport at Pakyong in Sikkim by Airports Authority of India, Government had allocated Rs. 309 crores. Out of these Rs.133.93 crores has been spent till October 2011. No fund has been allocated for any other Greenfield airport, and there is no other demand for allocation of fund pending in this Ministry.

(e) In addition, Government of India has granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of Greenfield airports at MoPA in Goa; Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Shimoga, Gulbarga, Hassan and Bijapur in Karnataka; Kannur in Kerala; Durgapur in West Bengal; Datia/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh; Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh; Karaikal in Puducherry and Paladi/Ramsinghpura near Jaipur in Rajasthan. The promoters have to develop these airports from their own resources as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

### **Protection of RTI activists**

**\*50. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as many as 28 RTI activists were attacked for allegedly filing applications and in the past years, three RTI activists have lost their lives fighting for the cause of transparency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is no policy in place for the protection of RTI activists; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to initiate some steps to ensure that RTI applicants are not deterred by any threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) There have been reports in the media that some persons have been assaulted in the last two years allegedly due to their role as RTI activists. Some of the persons who are alleged to have been so murdered include Ramdas Pati Ghadegasonkar, Babbu Singh, Amit Jethwa, Datta Patil, Vittal Gite, Sola Ranga Rao, Arun Sawant, Shehla Masood and Nadim Sayeed.

There is no need for a separate policy to deal with such cases as the framework of existing laws such as Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code etc. is considered adequate to provide for safety and security to all citizens, including RTI activities. Further, RTI Activists will also get protection under the proposed Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons Making the Disclosure Bill, 2010.

As maintenance of law and order and providing safety and security for all citizens is primarily the subject matter of State Government, Government of India has drawn the attention of State Governments to the report appearing in the media about the victimization of people, who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration. The States have been requested that if any such instance comes to the notice, it should be promptly inquired into and action taken against the offenders.

#### **International Buddhist Museum in Candy, Sri Lanka**

\*51. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian initiative to build a gallery at an International Buddhist Museum in Candy, Sri Lanka, has hit a controversy, with the Ministry of Culture refusing to take charge of the project proposed by the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) if so, the facts of the case and reasons for two wings of the Central Government having different views on such an important project; and

(c) the details of other Asian countries which are involved in joining this project, and the likely cost of the above mentioned project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The Government of Sri Lanka requested the Government of India to participate in the establishment of the Sri Dalada Maligawa International Museum of World Buddhism in Kandy, Sri Lanka by contributing to an Indian Gallery in the Museum. In this context, the National Museum prepared a concept paper on Indian participation in the Indian Gallery in the International Museum. The concept paper had the concurrence of the Ministry of Culture. It has been decided to implement the project through a transparent bidding process.

(c) The other Asian countries involved in the project are Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Korea, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Maldives. The cost of the project can be ascertained only after completion of the tendering process.

#### **Preparation of BPL list**

\*52. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: