

New civil aviation policy for North-East Region

3751. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is preparing any new civil aviation policy to end isolation of North-East region and some other areas which are neglected so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction and the pending requests from each State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no separate civil aviation policy for North-East Region. However, to have a sustainable orderly growth of the aviation sector, the Ministry has felt the need to spell out a long term Civil Aviation Policy which shall, *inter-alia*, also address the issues related to the NER. Accordingly on 22.12.2011, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation to formulate a Civil Aviation Policy to address the long term issues of the sector and provide a road map for development. Government has identified focus areas and a consultation paper has been placed on the website of the Ministry (www.civilaviation.nic.in) inviting comments from all stakeholders. Comments received from various organizations are under examination.

Action plan of Air India for improvement

†3752. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the purposes for which Government has extended assistance to Air India during last five years, date-wise and quantum-wise;
- (b) the type of the aeroplanes for which approval of purchasing has been granted to Air India during the above said period; the details thereof; and
- (c) the action-plan chalked out by Air India which is facing a cash-crunch, to improve it's economic condition; whether the proposals of investment or share-purchase has been approved; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) During the financial year 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, Government has infused Rs. 800 crores,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 1200 crores and Rs. 1200 crores respectively in Air India as equity investment for easing the liquidity crunch faced by the company and to address adverse Debt-equity ratio.

(b) During the last five years, no purchase agreement was signed either by erstwhile Air India or by erstwhile Indian Airlines for purchasing the new aircraft. However, erstwhile Air India had signed a Purchase Agreement with Boeing in December 2005 for purchase of 68 Boeing aircraft. Similarly, Erstwhile Indian Airlines had signed a Purchase Agreement with Airbus in February 2006 to purchase 43 A320 family aircraft.

(c) Air India has prepared a Turn Around Plan, which encapsulates tangible goals with respect to passenger traffic, load factor, on-time performance and customer service in order to realize its vision. The proposed business strategy of the Company is to focus on introducing an appropriate network model, add fleet and optimize its deployment, hive off allied businesses such as MRO and Ground Handling, transfer/depute employees to MRO and GH subsidiaries, integrate IT platforms and introduce new systems, improve customer service and operational efficiency, leverage Air India brand and monetize its assets. Government has also approved the Turnaround Plan and Financial Restructuring Plan of Air India which provides induction of upfront equity, equity for cash deficit support, equity for already guaranteed aircraft loan, GOI Guarantee for repayment of Principal amount and payment of interest on the Non Convertible Debentures (NCDs) of Rs. 7400 crore .proposed to be issued by Air India Limited to the Financial Institution, Banks, LIC EPFO etc.

Declaring Mana Airport at Raipur as International Airport

†3753. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the main conditions for declaring an international airport;
- (b) whether Government has received any proposals for declaring Mana Airport, Raipur as international airport;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when Mana Airport will be declared an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) For declaration an airport as an International airport, it is mandatory to have Customs, Immigration,

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