

Routes transferred to private airlines

4508. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) how many routes of the Air India and Indian Airlines were transferred to the private Airlines during the last five years i.e. since 2007-08;
- (b) the separate details of international and domestic routes; and
- (c) how far such transfer affected the earnings and profitability of the Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No route of the Air India and Indian Airlines have been transferred to private airlines. Air India makes changes to its schedule of operations based on its own evaluation in line with the availability of their resources and their commercial priorities.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply (a) above.

Bhubaneswar as international airport

4509. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) how many airports have been declared as international airport in the country, the criteria to declare as international airport; and
- (b) whether Government is considering the proposal to declare Biju Pattanaik airport, Bhubaneswar as international airport and if so, the time line by which international operations can be started from Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) So far, 17 airports have been declared as International In the country. The essential parameters to consider declaring of an airport as international *inter-alia* include international sector traffic potential, requirements of airlines, availability of international cargo complex, adequate size of terminal building, night landing facilities, navigational aids, customs, Immigration, health services and animal plant quarantine etc. and bilateral agreement with foreign countries.

- (b) Declaration of the airport as international is subject to airport modernisation underway. It includes construction of a new Terminal Building with all modern amenities including two aerobridges for handling 800 passenger at a time. After commissioning of the New Domestic Terminal Building, modification/ renovation of the existing Domestic Terminal Building will be undertaken to make it