

(c) whether Government proposes to link Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar-Rajkot-Surat and Vadodara with the capitals of the remaining States;

(d) if so, the names of the cities having air link with Vadodara; and

(e) the details of the proposed schemes to air link Surat with others cities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Currently, the following States and UTs are air linked with Gujarat viz. Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Goa and Diu.

(b) The following State capitals are air linked with Ahmadabad viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Bangalore, Jaipur, Goa and Diu.

(c) to (e) At present Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara are air linked with following States capital:

- Bhavnagar- Mumbai,
- Rajkot- Mumbai,
- Surat- Delhi, Mumbai,
- Vadodara-Delhi, Mumbai.

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 achieve 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.

Independent regulatory authority for aviation sector

4521. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to setup an independent regulatory authority for the aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the role and functions envisaged for the authority along with its proposed composition and the present status;

(d) the role of the Director General of Civil Aviation in the event of establishment of new authority; and

(e) the time-frame for the setting up of the new authority?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which would have not only the regulatory safety oversight functions of the current DGCA but also functions relating to certain economic regulations, consumer protection and environment regulation. The proposed CAA would have financial and administrative flexibility to meet functional requirements of an effective safety oversight system. Setting up of the CAA is being proposed to overcome the constraints presently faced by DGCA in terms of recruitment and retention of technical manpower and inability to quickly address ongoing operational issues due to lack of adequate administrative and financial authority as of now.

(c) to (e) The proposal to form CAA is still at a formative stage.

Proposals of Uttar Pradesh lying with Government

4522. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals of Uttar Pradesh regarding civil aviation lying with Government;

(b) by when those are lying; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite action on those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India has already granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh. In addition, Government of India had received a proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Jewar (Greater Noida). The proposal was considered by the Union Cabinet and the Union Cabinet referred the matter to a Group of Ministers (GoM) for looking into the legal and other related aspects of the matter.

Economic plight of Air India

†4523. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Committee has held policies of the Government responsible for the economic plight of Air India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.