

- (iii) Director General of Foreign Trade has allowed import of ATF by airlines on actual user basis.
- (iv) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation has been constituted to undertake formulation of a Civil Aviation Policy.

(c) The Indian Air Transport Industry is burdened with higher operating cost than their counter parts globally. This is mainly due to the high costs of ATF and the distorted and high rate of taxes on all services and commodities associated with the sector. Fuel, aircraft leases, airport charges, air tickets, air navigation service charges, maintenance costs, fuel throughput fees, into-plane fuel charges, are also subjected to service taxes.

Installation of Model of Durgiana Mandir at Amritsar

2344. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that a request was made by the Durgiana Mandir Committee Amritsar to install a model of Durgiana Mandir at the airport of Amritsar;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the year 2007 Airports Authority of India, has given the consent to install the model stated above; and
- (c) by when this model would be installed to respect the sentiments of the devotees of Durgiana Mandir?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) had finalized a location in 2007 for installation of this model. However, this could not be taken up due to expansion of Terminal Building. AAI is in the process of finalizing a new location for installation of this Model in the Terminal Building.

Upgradation of T-1 at Bangalore Airport

2345. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is fact that Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has planned to upgrade and expand the current Terminal 1 building at Bangalore Airport;
- (b) if so, the present status of the expansion;
- (c) whether there is any time-frame set to complete the expansion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The shell and core work are in progress with scheduled target of completion in the first quarter of 2013.

(e) Does not arise.

Panel to promote Air Connectivity

2346. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had formed a panel to review air connectivity in remotely connected regions;

(b) if so, recommendation/suggestions made by the panel;

(c) whether there is a scope to increase the domestic flights in Jharkhand, North East region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of measures proposed to be taken based on the recommendations of the above panel to enhance and promote regional connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) A Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Rohit Nandan has examined the present Route Dispersal Guidelines and suggested measures to ensure better connectivity for smaller cities and towns. The Committee has recommended revision of Route Dispersal Guidelines. The report of the Committee has been placed on the website of the Ministry inviting comments of stake holders.

(c) and (d) At present, operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence to Route Dispersal Guidelines. Government had 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 the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(e) Comments received from various organizations on the recommendations of the Rohit Nandan Committee are under examination.

International Flights operated from Jaipur

†2347. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.