

(c) the number of airports which have already been developed as international airports till now; and

(d) by when the remaining airports would be developed as international airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) There are eight airports including one civil enclave managed and maintained by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Madhya Pradesh. Of these, airports at Bhopal, Indore, Khajuraho, Jabalpur and Gwalior (Civil Enclave) are operational, while Khandwa, Panna and Satna airstrips are non-operational.

(b) and (c) No airport in Madhya Pradesh has been designated as international airport. However, three airports, namely, Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho were taken up for upgradation to international standards. The development work at Bhopal and Indore airports have since been completed and new facilities commissioned.

(d) Development of airports is a continuous process which takes into account the commercial viability, strategic importance, traffic potential/demands, commitment of airlines to operate through the specific airports etc.

Aviation policy

1716. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had taken any notice of the fact that there was public criticism that the Ministry had failed to devise a comprehensive aviation policy till date;

(b) if so, whether the process to produce such a policy has started; and

(c) the concept on which such a policy would be envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Civil Aviation is a dynamic sector which requires continuous adjustments to global and domestic needs. The Govt. has constantly, been responding to changing scenario and formulating sector specific measures to facilitate and enable growth of the sector. Further, therefore on a regular basis Govt. has been taking various policy initiatives, required for development and growth of civil aviation sector. Nearly all the components of the earlier proposed policy have been implemented.

However, to have a sustainable orderly growth of the aviation sector, the Ministry felt the need to spell out a long term Civil Aviation Policy to address various issues related to the sector. 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 and provide a road map for development of the sector. 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.

International airports status to Bhubaneswar airport

1717. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms for declaring an airport as an International Airport;
- (b) whether the Biju Patnaik Airport satisfies the prescribed norms;
- (c) if so, the steps Government has taken to declare it as an International Airport and the time schedule fixed for the same; and
- (d) if not, the time-frame within which the deficiencies, if any, are proposed to be removed to fulfil the norms?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) For declaring an airport as an International airport, it is mandatory to have following regulatory agencies at the airport:

(i) Customs; (ii) Immigration; (iii) Health services; and (iv) Animal and Plant quarantine In addition to the above, adequate infrastructure like Runway length should be adequate to cater to medium capacity long-range aircraft or equivalent type of aircraft, as these aircraft constitute majority of aircraft used in international operations, availability of Ground Lighting Facilities, Instrument Landing System, for operation of aircrafts at night, requirement/demand from Scheduled National/ International Airline Operators, Terminal Building for segregated handling of international and domestic passengers/cargo counter/office space for regulatory agencies etc. should be available for facilitating international operations.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) After operationalization of the new domestic Terminal Building, which is