

Air connectivity to small cities

469. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private airlines operators desire only big city routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government so that small cities may also be connected by air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) No Sir, Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by airlines concerned 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. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for Scheduled regional air transport service with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III (small cities) cities and between specific regions.

Modernisation of Aurangabad Airport in Maharashtra

470. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop and modernise Aurangabad Airport in Maharashtra in order to boost the tourism to Ajanta and Ellora caves in its vicinity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A new Integrated Terminal has