

amount to Rs. 47,226 crores. The Ministry does not maintain such details in respect of private airlines as these are the commercial matters between the companies and the banks/financers.

There is no proposal in the Ministry to waive these loans.

Air connectivity to remote areas in the country

482. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide air connectivity to certain remote and interior areas of the country including north-eastern region and tier-II and tier-III cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the cities identified for the purpose across the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage domestic airlines to operate flights on these remote and interior routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) 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 regions. 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.

(c) 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.

Aviation university

483. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an aviation university with world class facilities;