Safety standards of aircrafts

3885. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that DGCA has recently noticed declining safety standards of aircrafts operating in the country;

(b)   if so, whether DGCA has submitted any report on the matter;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the action Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Any decline in safety standards of aircraft operating in the country has neither been reported to Directorate General of Civil Aviation so far nor has it been noticed by DGCA.

(b) to (d) Does not arise. However, DGCA carries out safety oversight of maintenance and engineering activities of all operators in accordance with the Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) Section 2, Series "A", Part-IV, Issue-I dated 28.08.1996, to ensure the effective implementation of safety related airworthiness rules, regulations and requirements contained in various national documents and Safety and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and associated procedures contained in ICAO Annexes.

Flight services between Madurai and Singapore

3886. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Centre has rejected the proposal of operation of flight services between Madurai and Singapore despite Singapore's inclination to operate flight service to Madurai and the readiness expressed by two private airlines to commence operation in the sector;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the reasons behind not wanting to connect Madurai to Singapore when the two nations have agreed to increase air traffic in the existing routes to 29,400 weekly passenger seats from India to Singapore and 28,700 weekly passenger seats in the return direction?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) The operation of air services between two countries are based on the principles of sovereignty of nations, nationality of carrier and reciprocity in terms of commercial opportunities for the airlines of each side. Singapore has already been granted 7 points of call in India besides access to 18 tourist destinations. Madurai is not the point of call under present bilateral air services agreement with Singapore. However, the points of call *viz.* Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore are already available to the designated airlines of Singapore in Tamil Nadu. Besides, the Government has already allocated seven services per week to M/s Spicejet for operation on Madurai — Singapore sector effective Summer Schedule 2013.

Cities not covered by air travel

3887. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether many tier-II and tier-III cities of the country are not adequately covered by air travel;

(b)   if so, the details of such cities and towns;

(c)   the steps Government has taken to provide proper and affordable air connectivity to tier-II and tier-III cities; and

(d)   the details of the same?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) At present scheduled air services are available to/from 76 airports in the country. Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) 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 laid down by Government in 1994 with a view to ensure better connectivity to remote regions of the country. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category-II routes) at least 10 per cent of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes). Further, at least 10 per cent of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, is required to be deployed for connectivity