

Air India also operated 4 additional flights per week on Delhi-Leh & VV route with effect from 10th July—31st July, 2013 and 3 additional flights from 10th September to 17th September, 2013 to cater to the tourist traffic. Air India will consider additional flights on Delhi-Leh & VV route based on demand during the tourist season subject to availability of resources.

However, 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. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(d) and (e) Air fares are not regulated by the Government. Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 states that every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services shall establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Therefore, airlines are free to fix reasonable charges/fee.

#### **International Flights From Bhubaneswar**

485. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to start International flights from Bhubaneswar to South East and Middle East countries as has been announced by the Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the same will be in operation; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Air line services of Jet, Indigo and Air India are being reduced although there is need to increase the number of flights to destinations like Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The operation of air services on international sector depends on the Air Services Agreement between the countries and is based on principles of sovereignty of nations, nationality of carriers and reciprocity in terms of commercial opportunity for the airlines of each side.

The foreign airlines can operate on designated points of call available under the bilateral agreement. Bhubaneswar is available as point of call to designated airlines of ASEAN (except Philippines, Laos)/SAARC (except Pakistan and Afghanistan) countries for unlimited operations.

The Indian carriers are free to mount services from any point in India including Bhubaneswar to international destination available under bilaterals against the traffic rights allocated to them. Bhubaneswar is served by way of Hub and Spoke arrangement over the closest gateway points.

The Government does not interfere in the commercial judgement of the airlines for operations on any route allocated to the designated carriers.

#### **Construction of civil airport at Srinagar**

486. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Military airports used for purpose of civil aviation, in different parts of country;
- (b) whether Government envisages construction of civil airports at such places to ease pressure on military airports;
- (c) whether Government envisages construction of a civil airport at Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir); and
- (d) whether Government will name the Srinagar airport after Sufi Saint Sheikh-ul-Alam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) Details of Civil Enclaves managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at various Defence Airports in the country are as given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Government does not have any proposal to construct new Civil airports at places where Civil operations take place at Defence airports. However, the Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval to the Government of Goa for the setting up of a Greenfield airport at Mopa in Goa. There is also a proposal with Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC) to construct a new Greenfield airport at Khed, near Pune in Maharashtra.