(b) if so, the details thereof and at what stage is the process for privatization of these airports;

(c) whether the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism has opposed the privatization of airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Task Force on Financing Plan for Twelfth Plan Period, Government of India (GoI) has 'in principle' decided to bring operation, management and development of twenty airport at Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Guwahati, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar, Coimbatore, Trichy, Varanasi, Indore, Amritsar, Udaipur, Gaya, Raipur, Bhopal, Agartala, Imphal, Mangalore and Vadodara in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in a phased manner. GoI has invited the applications from the prospective parties seeking their qualification. For this, Requests for Qualification (RFQ) have been issued for six airports namely Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Jaipur and Lucknow.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism have been received recently and are being examined.

Survival of domestic flight operators

491. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken by Government on the fact that most of domestic flight operators are passing through extremely tough time due to various reasons and also keeping in view that, it is quite essential to boost up our tourism sector and economic development that these flight operators should be survived; and

(b) the number of application to begin domestic flight operations which are pending with the Ministry and by when these will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) The Government has taken several measures to revive the aviation industry and ensure long-term viability of the sector which include:

(i) The issue of rationalization of VAT on ATF, has been taken up with the State Governments.

(ii) Director General of Foreign Trade has allowed direct import of ATF by airlines on actual user basis.

(iii) The Ministry has undertaken a study of ATF pricing and fiscal structure through experts. The report has been submitted to Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(iv) Foreign airlines have been allowed to invest in the equity of domestic carriers up to 49 per cent.

(v) ECB upto $ USD 1 billion has been permitted for the airlines to meet their working capital requirement.

(b) Nine proposals of Scheduled Domestic Air Transport (Passenger/Regional) Services are at various levels of detailed examination and consultation with MHA for Security Clearance of the Company and its Directors. It is not possible to specify any time limit for the approval.

Representation of Muslims in Boards of PSU Banks

492. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Muslim Director in the Board of Directors of State Bank of India (SBI);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of account holders from the Muslim minority in the SBI; and

(d) how many Muslim directors are there in the nationalized banks along with the names of the nationalized banks and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) There is one Muslim Member on the Patna Local Board of State Bank of India (SBI).

(c) SBI has informed that there are 16,50,831 account holders from the Muslim Minority Community in the Bank as on 30.09.2013.