

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move benefits Go Air and new entrants like Air Asia and Tata-Singapore Airlines (TATA-SIA) which have evinced interest in International operations out of India and also it would improve domestic carriers' aircraft utilization and permit them to compete aggressively with foreign airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Consultations have, however, been made with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to explore possibility to relax eligibility criteria based on international practices.

Free ticket scam in DGCA

1254. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a free ticket scam in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently been unearthed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. DGCA Circular No. AIC 02/1978 authorizes the DGCA to direct the airlines to provide seats including Observer's seats free of charge (excluding taxes and other levies, which are paid by Government) to enable DGCA officers to discharge assigned official responsibilities. Hence there are no completely free tickets.

One case of irregularity regarding fraudulent claim and impersonation to misuse the aforementioned travel facility under the provisions of above said circular has been detected. The same has been reported to Delhi police for further investigation. Apart from that necessary departmental action has also been initiated.

New airports in the country

1255. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given its approval for establishment of new airports in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any of the existing airports have been considered for upgradation and renovation in this process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether any airports in the State of Jharkhand are identified to upgradation and renovation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Government of India has granted 'In principle' approval for the setting up of the following Greenfield airports across the country: Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hasan and Shimoga in Karanataka, Kannur and Aranmula in Kerala, Durgapur in West Bengal, Dabra in Madhya Pradesh, Pakyong in Sikkim, Karaikal in Pudducherry and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) to (e) Government of India has a vision to establish low cost small airports which may include existing airports also for providing connectivity to the tier-II and tier-III cities in the country including in the State of Jharkhand.

Expansion of Gaya International Airport

†1256. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether land of many people was acquired in Bihar in the year 2010 for the expansion of Gaya International Airport;
- (b) whether it is a fact that neither farmers were paid full compensation for their land nor their family members were employed by Government; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that farmers were not paid the cost of their land as per market rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) The matters relating to acquisition of land and payment of compensation thereto are the concern of the State Government. The land is to be handed over to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

- (c) Does not arise in view of above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.