

cannot be fully harnessed by AAI due to the inherent constraints of a public sector entity, (ii) Problems related to monitoring and supervision of the large number of sub-optimal service contracts being awarded by AAI could also be eliminated if a single PPP concession for operation and maintenance of the entire airport is granted to an experienced and competent entity. (iii) After making large investments in these airports, AAI would need to generate considerable revenues from non-aeronautical services and to make air travel affordable. (iv) AAI would also need to generate significant revenues from these metro airports in order to invest in development of new airports.

**Policy for regional air connectivity**

2495. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to unveil a new policy to encourage airlines to fly to smaller cities and make regional air connectivity viable;

(b) if so, the details of new smaller cities likely to be connected by airlines;

(c) whether the existing route dispersal guidelines which makes mandatory for airlines to fly to North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman and Nicobar Islands had many loopholes; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government is going to plug those loopholes and to acquire smaller planes for smaller cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (b) 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, Government has introduced a separate category of Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services in 2007. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for Scheduled regional air transport service. To achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East (NE) region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep, the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG). In accordance with these RDG, all Scheduled Airlines who operate on Category-I (Metro) routes are required to deploy 10% of the capacity deployed on Category-I routes, on Category-II routes. Category-II routes are those connecting stations in North East

region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator are also required to deploy at least 50% in Category III (small cities) of the capacity deployed in Category I route.

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Development of Hyderabad airport as international hub**

2496. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has identified Hyderabad airport to be developed as one of international hubs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the distinguishing feature of an international airport from an international hub;
- (d) the details of other international airports identified for being developed as international hubs;
- (e) whether any action plan/blueprint has been prepared for this purpose;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) by when Hyderabad is going to become an international hub?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad is among the airports which have been identified for development as international hubs.

(c) An 'international airport' is an airport designated by an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Contracting State, in whose territory it is situated as an airport of entry and departure for international air traffic, where formalities incident to Customs, Immigration, public health, agricultural quarantine and similar procedures are carried out. Whereas, a hub is an 'international airport where facilities are planned to handle large volume of transfer/connecting passengers along with one or more carriers having a base at the airport with ability to provide wide network on domestic