

(c) whether Gwalior is proposed to be connected with various parts of the country through air services; and

(d) if so, the details of progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, development/upgradation of airports is a continuous process which is planned and undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on commercial viability, technical feasibility, land availability, etc. In this regard, Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal and Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore have already been upgraded and New Terminal Buildings have been commissioned.

(c) and (d) The air transport services have been deregulated and decontrolled with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. As per the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Govt. of India, the Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country. However, it is upto the airlines to operate flights to specific areas depending upon the commercial viability and demand factors.

Air service from Bhagalpur, Bihar

†2763. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to start air service to link Bhagalpur in Bihar with other cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to make such an airport at Bhagalpur an advanced and model airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) Domestic air transport services in the country has been deregulated. Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) 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. Scheduled domestic airlines are free to operate anywhere within the country subject to compliance of RDG. At present no scheduled domestic flight is operating to/from Bhagalpur in Bihar.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The airstrip at Bhagalpur belongs to State Government of Bihar. There is no proposal from the State Government regarding the development of Bhagalpur Airport.

Equipping of airports for dealing with foggy conditions

2764. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airports in the Northern States of India are equipped to deal with foggy conditions during winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of runways that can cater to CAT-III conditions at the Delhi airport;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to insufficient/inadequate arrangements, the Delhi airport has been downgraded due to in-operational problems in landing/take off during winters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) The airports in the Northern States namely Agra, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Dehradun, Udaipur, Jammu, Varanasi, Amritsar and Lucknow including Delhi are well equipped to deal with foggy conditions during the winter season. Three Runways RWY 09, RWY 10 and RWY 27 of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi are equipped with CAT-III.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

Downgrading of aviation safety ranking by FAA

2765. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent downgrade of the country's aviation safety ranking by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the U.S. was the result of total apathy of the authorities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has made attempts to revise the downgrade by the FAA of the U.S.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by Government therein ?