

Municipal Corporation (BMC) authorities for removal of hoardings. Out of the total 15 hoardings, all except 2 hoardings which are under litigation, (one belonging to M/s Rajdhani Marbles and another belonging to M/s Inn Ads) have been removed. As soon as the remaining two hoardings are removed, the load penalty to Air India Mumbai-Newark flight, shall be reduced significantly. The revenue on account of these hoardings goes to BMC.

Relaxation in eligibility for operation on international routes

2768. SHRI R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has abolished the criteria of 5 year and 20 aircrafts rule prescribed for domestic airlines to become eligible for operation of international scheduled air transport services;

(b) if so, the reasons for abolition of such criteria;

(c) the date from which this relaxation comes into effect; and

(d) the details of the domestic airlines which become eligible for operating international scheduled air travel services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Foreign pilots in domestic airlines

2769. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign pilots employed in the various airlines in India;

(b) whether there is a shortage of Indian-trained pilots;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action plan to make up this deficiency; and

(e) the time-frame within which the foreign pilots would be replaced by Indian pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) The details of foreign pilots employed by various airlines as on 31st March, 2014 is as follows:

Name of Airlines	No. of Foreign Pilots
Air India	14
Jet Airways	121
Spice Jet	10
Blue Dart	05
Indigo Airlines	45
Alliance Air	08
Non Scheduled	74
TOTAL	277

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of type rated Commanders (Type rated Pilots or Pilots-in-Command) in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircrafts in the fleet of the airlines.

(d) To cover the shortage of type rated pilots, validation of foreign pilots is done as per rule 45 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. Indian pilots, which are inducted by Airlines and are eligible to become pilot in command (PIC) as per the policy of Airlines, are being trained by them to phase out expat pilots. As a follow up, cases of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) pilots are processed on the basis of information furnished by each Airline with phase out programme of expat pilots.

(e) The Government has restricted issue of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization (FATA) up to 31st December 2016.

International flights from Bhubaneswar airport

2770. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar is ready for international flight operations; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay to start international flight operations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air services of different regions of the country, the air transport services have been deregulated and decontrolled. As per the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Government of India, the Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country. However, it is upto the airlines to operate flights to specific