

Development of low cost airports in the country

*31. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry intends to develop low cost and energy-efficient airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such airports, likely to be developed in the near future; and

(d) how many such airports will be developed in Punjab and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The low cost airport model is to be based on a modular building concept with maximum use of natural light, water harvesting, solar cell roof on the terminal as per feasibility, etc. The low cost airport is designed for only clear weather, day time, Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations with no perimeter light, no perimeter road, no separate isolation bay, etc.

(c) and (d) Government of India (GoI) has so far identified 50 locations to promote regional air connectivity in the Tier-II and Tier-III cities across the country, one of which is in Punjab. New Civil Enclave has been developed as no frill enclave at Bhatinda airport. Presently, there are no scheduled flight operations at Bhatinda airport. Ludhiana has been identified as one of the airports for upgradation. State Government is taking action for acquisition of additional land and for removal of obstruction in the approach funnel in vicinity of this airport. Development of low cost airports depends upon many factors such as availability of land, availability of mandatory clearances, environmental clearances, traffic projections, and provision of support services by the State Government such as access road to the airport, water supply, power supply, services of State Police and State Fire Staff for Security and Safety needs of the airport, etc.

Request made to Swiss Government regarding black money

*32. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any request regarding black money held by Indian nationals in Swiss Bank;

(b) when the request was sent and what was the information sought;

(c) whether it is a fact that Parliament of Swiss Government has passed a law called, 'The Swiss Tax Administrative Assistance Act';

(d) if so, when this Act was passed;