

Development of new airport at Chakulia

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is proposing to develop a new Airport at Chakulia in Jharkhand which is not an appropriate place as it is 30 km away from NH-33;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AAI is aware that a big airstrip used in World War-II is available at Dhalbhumgarh which is very much suitable for establishment of an airport and is near to NH-33 that connects Odisha; and

(d) considering the above factors, reasons for AAI not changing its proposal for establishment of a new airport at Dhalbhumgarh instead of in Chakulia?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Dhalbhumgarh Airstrip belongs to Ministry of Defence and is around 15 Kms (air distance) from Chakulia. The existing Chakulia Airport belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and is non-operational. At present, no request has been received from any airline operator indicating their willingness for commencement of flights to and from Chakulia Airport or Dhalbhumgarh Airstrip, nor any proposal received from State Government for development of Chakulia Airport or Dhalbhumgarh Airstrip.

Transfer of land to DIAL

*40. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether transfer of land to Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) has been made on the basis of any physical survey;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to conduct any enquiry or audit;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that there are conflicts between the Development Agreement and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for Government allowing the private partner to treat handling services as non-aeronautical services?