

Upgradation of Patna Airport

*491. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport at Patna has poor infrastructure, short runway, lack of proper facilities for baggage screening during security check-in and a waiting lounge which does not have capacity to take care of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fund has been allocated by the Ministry for the upgradation of the airport, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the upgradation of this airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI) : (a) and (b) Patna Airport has a Runway of dimension 1938 metres X 45 metres suitable for A-320 type of aircraft with load restriction. The existing apron is suitable for parking four A-320 and one Dornier type of aircraft at a time with two link taxiways. The existing Terminal Building can handle 150 arriving and 150 departing passengers at a time. The statutory services of custom, immigration and health facilities for operation of limited International flights have been provided at the airport.

However, Patna airport is a constrained airport with no further scope for expansion and upgradation due to existence of obstacles and non-availability of land.

(c) Airports Authority India (AAI) has allocated ₹19.11 Crores in Twelfth Five Year Plan for upgradation of Patna Airport.

(d) Construction of new Terminal Building is not feasible due to land constraints at the airport. However, the modification works like increase in check-in-area, number of check-in-counters, security hold, baggage claim area and city side canopy etc. inside the Terminal Building are being planned to de-congest the Terminal Building to the extent possible.

Shortage of batteries for naval submarines

*492. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is severe shortage of batteries for our submarines;

(b) the details of type I, type II, etc. batteries for each of our submarines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Navy is also facing shortage of submarines; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts his Ministry has made or going to make to procure type I, type II and other batteries and also new submarines for Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) Indian Navy operates two types of submarines, Sindhughosh (EKM) class and Shishumar (SSK) class. These submarines are powered by high capacity Lead Acid batteries, which enable the submarines to propel underwater for prolonged duration.

There are two types of batteries in use- Type-I batteries are fitted on Sindhughosh class submarines and Type-II batteries are fitted on Shishumar class submarines. At present, there are no shortages of these batteries and all submarines are fitted with serviceable batteries.

Further, acquisition of new assets, including submarines, is an ongoing process dictated primarily by capabilities to be achieved, threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic security environment, emerging technologies, and availability of funds. Modernization programme of the Indian Navy is being pursued in accordance with the Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP 2012-27).

Irregularities in admissions in private medical colleges

†*493. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for admission to the private medical colleges in the country and the agency which oversees their entrance test procedure;
- (b) whether Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in admission process, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken against those colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The eligibility criteria for admission to medical colleges is prescribed in clause 4 of the regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997, as given in the Statement-I (See below)

The above regulations framed by the MCI are held to be binding and mandatory in nature and are required to be followed by all the medical colleges/institutions coming under the purview of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

The Committee set up by the respective State Government under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, oversees the entrance test procedure in respect of private medical colleges.

(b) and (c) A Statement showing list of complaints with regards to irregularities in admission process and action taken thereon is given in the Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.