

**Development of Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Airport in Bihar**

†3555. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to develop the Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Airport in Bihar as a model airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (c) Development/upgradation of Airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on traffic demand, socio-economic considerations, availability of land etc. Patna Airport is a constrained airport and further expansion and upgradation of airport is not feasible due to air-side limitation. The Runway cannot be extended due to land constraints and obstacles such as Railway Line and Highway towards west and Botanical Garden, Government buildings and Watch Tower towards east. Construction of new terminal building is not feasible due to land constraints. However, AAI is exploring all possibilities to decongest the existing Terminal Building to an extent possible by increasing check-in-area, number of check-in-counters, security hold area, baggage claim area and city side canopy.

**Flight service between Srinagar and Karbala**

3556. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of international airports in India, State-wise;
- (b) the number of countries connected through these airports and the number of flights operating from these airports airlines-wise;
- (c) the policy of Government to start flight service to the foreign country;
- (d) whether Government would consider the demand of the Shia Muslims living in Srinagar to start a flight from Srinagar to Karbala, Iraq once in a week; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) There are 24 International airports in India. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Presently scheduled domestic airlines are operating to/from 34 international destinations namely Abudhabi, Bruxelles, Birmingham, Bangkok, Bahrin, Chicago,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.