

As per approved Winter Schedule 2014, no Scheduled domestic flight is operating to/from Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Dhanbad airport. The domestic air services have been deregulated by the Government but it has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDGs issued by the Government.

Privatisation of airports under PPP model

2528. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced a new Aviation Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether Government has a plan to privatize some of the airports under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model; and
- (d) if so, the names of the airports identified for privatisation under this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation has unveiled a Draft Civil Aviation Policy on 10th November, 2014 to address various issues related to the sector. The policy covers areas like Development of airports, Rationalizing the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), Development of the Cargo sector, Institutional reforms, Enhancing Regional Connectivity, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities, Modernization of Air Navigation Services (ANS), Development of Helicopter Aviation, DGCA and e-Governance.

(c) and (d) Government of India intends to develop airports of Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chennai and Kolkata in the first phase.

Improvement in efficiency and profitability of AI

2529. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any guidelines to the loss making national carrier Air India (AI) to improve its efficiency;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to rationalise excess manpower of Air India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to improve the efficiency and profitability of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued broad guidelines to improve the performance and profitability of Air India. The broad guidelines include regular route profitability analysis, effective utilization of fleet, rationalisation of manpower, customer friendly services, effective management of delayed flights, aggressive marketing of first class and business class seats, proper monitoring of on-time-performance, effective inventory management, enhancement of revenue from ancillary business, special emphasis on passenger amenities, and on aircraft and passenger safety etc.

(c) and (d) Air India has hived off its Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) and Ground Handling Services into two separate subsidiary companies namely Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) and Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). Out of total manpower of 21959, 5826 employees have been transferred/deputed to AIESL and 4020 employees to AIATSL, as a manpower rationalisation measure.

(e) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a Turnaround Plan (TAP) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) for Air India in its meeting held on 12.04.2012 which envisages infusion of equity by the Government subject to achievement of certain milestones. An Oversight Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation to monitor the Operational and Financial Performance of Air India.

Delivery of heavier Dreamliner aircrafts by Boeing

2530. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Air India (AI) is facing umpteen problems relating to software, windshield cracks, batteries, etc., with Dreamliner 787 fleet;