

Direct Air India flights from Delhi to Thiruvananthapuram and Madurai

3322. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Air India flights would be operated directly to Thiruvananthapuram and to Madurai from New Delhi; and
- (b) if so, by when the services would begin and the details of the sanctioned proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. Air India currently does not have any plans to operate direct flights to Thiruvananthapuram and Madurai from New Delhi.

- (b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above.

Non-availability of security gadgets at airports

3323. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the airports in country do not have minimum security gadgets required for proper security checks like X-ray machines, metal detector, explosive testing device etc.; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for such security lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. Adequate number of security gadgets have been installed at all airports run and managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Private/Joint Venture airport operators.

- (b) Does not arise in view of reply at part (a) above.

New route policy for remote regions

3324. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a provision for providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to encourage airlines to offer connectivity to remote regions;

(b) whether Government's proposed new route policy for remote regions is being opposed by some private airlines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government's new policy mandates that by the end of 2016, airlines will have to match capacity deployed on 30 trunk routes with that deployed in the rest of the country; and

(d) the details of Government's stand in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) A draft discussion paper was prepared and uploaded for inviting views/suggestions from stakeholders by the Ministry on Regional and Remote Area Connectivity which *inter-alia* provides for an Air Connectivity Fund.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No new policy has been finalized. The existing Route Dispersal Guidelines do not mandate this.

(d) The Government takes decision on the suggestions/views of stakeholders, taking into account various factors.

Expansion of Mysore Airport in Karnataka

3325. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has received any proposal for expansion of Mysore Airport to allow wide bodied aircrafts to operate from there;

(b) whether all the necessary required documents have been submitted by the State Government of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal and by when it will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Govt. of Karnataka has proposed for extension of runway to cater for operations of AB-320 type of aircrafts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing 09/27 runway is constrained by railway line on western side and National Highway on eastern, side and further expansion is subject to handing over of