

Closure of Runway No. 27 at IGI Airport

3330. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from defence and security establishments for closure of Runway No. 27 at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for commercial aircraft;

(b) whether most of the times, runway No. 27 which is the shortest of the three runways is used for arrivals and closure of it will mean a one-third reduction in aircraft handling capacity;

(c) whether this move of the security agencies has been opposed tooth and nail by the Civil Aviation authorities on the ground that it would slam the brakes on IGI's dream of becoming a big aviation hub; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flight Service between Ahmedabad-London

3331. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flight service between Ahmedabad and London was operational in year 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending the flight service; and

(c) whether Government is willing to restart the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Air India operated Mumbai-Ahmedabad-London route till October, 2007. However, in view of poor loads and recurring cash losses, the flight was restructured to Ahmedabad-Mumbai-London, and is currently operational.

(c) The operations on any route are guided by the commercial judgement of an airline based on the resources of the airline and commercial viability of a route etc.