

Flight services from airports without any connectivity

175. PROF M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are a number of airports in the country that have recently been refurbished and made operational but flights still do not operate from them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the losses accumulated by these airports over the last three years; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps recently aimed at incentivising the private airline industry to operate services from these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has made Akola, Bhatinda (Civil Enclave), Bikaner (Civil Enclave), Coochbehar, Jaisalmer (Civil Enclave), Jalgaon, Kadapa, Ludhiana, Pathankot (Civil Enclave) and Puducherry airports operational. However, it is up to the airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

- (c) The losses incurred by these airports over last three years are as given below:

(₹ in lakhs)			
Airport	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (Anticipated)
Akola	119.83	280.48	279.89
Bikaner	137.99	137.78	257.32
Cooch Behar	428.75	536.04	558.92
Jaisalmer	222.08	81.05	317.78
Cuddapah	370.75	409.44	380.03
Ludhiana	411.37	519.12	494.73
Puducherry	482.27	507.86	259.85
Pathankot	331.79	284.98	397.55

- (d) To improve air connectivity, AAI is providing the following incentives to domestic scheduled operators:

- (i) No landing charges is levied by AAI to domestic schedule operators who are operating with aircraft with a maximum certified capacity of less than 80 seats and helicopters of all type.

- (ii) Landing and parking charges at all airports in North-East Region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands & Lakshadweep (other than Defence airports) is reduced by 25% of the current rates for domestic scheduled operators.
- (iii) Night parking charges for aircraft of domestic operators is waived off for making night halt at airports where State Government has brought the rate of tax to 5% on ATF *w.e.f.* the date of implementing this rate by the respective State Govt. This relief is applicable initially for a period of 5 years.
- (iv) When an existing airline plans a new flight to connect new stations in Tier-II/Tier-III cities from Tier-I city and *vice versa* or in between 2 or more Tier-II cities, then the same is given priority over other airlines for allocations of slots, as per Slot Allocation Guidelines issued by this Ministry.

Lease basis aircrafts with Air India

176. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of aircrafts that are on lease basis in the fleet of aircrafts with AI, the national carrier; and
- (b) the number of aircrafts that were returned on the maturity of lease period or pre-maturely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Air India has taken 15 aircraft on lease basis.

(b) 27 lease aircraft have been returned back during the period January, 2009 to February, 2014.

Financial restructuring of Air India

177. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Turn Around Plan or Financial Restructuring Plan of Air India is yielding desired results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government approved Turn around Plan (TAP) and