

**Relaxation in existing 5 Years/20 Aircrafts norms**

811. SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vistara-the TATA-Singapore Airlines have urged Government to lift restrictions on flying overseas for launching its international operations;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons given by Vistara for relaxing 5 years and 20 Aircraft rule of Government;

(c) whether Vistara have not so far covered even North-East Region and other important sectors due to limited number of aircrafts; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for relaxing existing norms to favour a new airlines whose credibility is yet to be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) M/s Tata SIA Airlines have suggested certain modification in the existing international flying norms 5/20 and Route Dispersal Guidelines. The reasons offered by the airline for revision of international flying norms include enhanced connectivity for India and growth in international tourism.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) M/s Tata SIA Airlines was allowed deferment of the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines for a period of three months from the day of starting their operations subject to the following conditions:

(i) the exemption is only a deferment from compliance of the mandatory guidelines for a period of three months and the airline will have to make up for this shortfall in compliance within six months after the first quarter.

(ii) No further extension of period would be considered.

**Pending applications for NOC**

812. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications from the State of

Maharashtra for obtaining NOC from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been pending with the Ministry for a long time;

(b) if so, the number of such applications pending and since when along with their reasons, case-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry has set any timeline for disposing of the cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per the provisions of S.O.84(E), the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is responsible for issuing the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for height clearance of buildings and structures for the safe aircraft operations on behalf of Central Government in respect of all civil aerodromes in India including the State Government aerodromes and the private aerodromes where civil commercial flights are operating. Applications for NOC are received and disposed off directly by AAI.

#### **Profitability of airports**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the airports run by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not making any profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has any plan to improve the profitability of such airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The list of non-profit making airports is at Statement (*See* below). The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated several steps to make the loss making airports viable and profitable by development of cargo activities, enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue through revision of rates and awarding of contracts through master concessions, allowing operation of flying schools at non-operational airports, encouraging Maintenance, Repair & Operations (MRO) activities etc.