

Privatisation of airports

1294. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to privatize four Airports Authority of India (AAI) owned airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their names;

(c) whether the AAI has invited request for quotation (RFQ) for the operations, management and development of Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the AAI employees staged demonstration at airports across the country to protest against the Government's attempt to privatize airports in which the AAI has already invested ₹ 5,000 crore; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Presently, there is no such proposal to privatize the airports in the country. However, based on the recommendations of Task Force on Financing Plan for Airports during 12th Five Year Plan Period, set up by erstwhile Planning Commission, Government of India (GoI) has initiated the process for undertaking Operation, Management and Development of Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Jaipur airports through Public Private Partnership (PPP). Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued Request for Qualification documents on 30.12.2014. (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India Employees Union (AAEU) has given a strike notice. GoI has asked the AAI Management to evolve a mechanism for protection of the interests of the employees deployed at the above four airports.

Air connectivity from Shimla

1295. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that the Himachal Pradesh High Court has issued a notice to the Central and the State Governments on the issue of air connectivity in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper and smooth air connectivity for Shimla and other airports in the State to attract more tourists?