

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh has issued a notice in CWP No. 9800/2014 to the Central Government to make the Shimla Airport operationalise at the earliest. The Hon'ble High Court has also directed to constitute a committee comprising of Secretary (Civil Aviation), Chairman (AAI), CMD (Air India), Airport Director (Shimla Airport), Principal Secretary (Tourism) to the State of HP, Deputy Commissioner, Shimla, Deputy Commissioner, Solan and Engineer-in-Chief HPPWD to suggest and take steps to make the airport operational as early as possible. In compliance of the order of the Hon'ble High Court meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (CA). A test flight was conducted by Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India Ltd. on 4.2.2015 and certain constraints/threats have been identified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in their Safety Risk Assessment from regulatory prospective. Further, DGCA have discussed the issue with Non-Scheduled Operators (NSOPs) to check whether they are ready to operate smaller planes from Shimla wherein certain NSOPs have shown their willingness provided the State Government provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

(b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services of different regions of the country. It is therefore, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability within the country subject to compliance of RDGs. At present no scheduled domestic air service is available to /from Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. However, as per approved Winter Schedule -2014, in the State of Himachal Pradesh following schedule domestic air services are available to/from Dharamsala and Kullu.

Airline Route	Flights/Week	Alliance Air	Aircraft
Alliance Air	Delhi-Dharmasala & V/V	07	ATR-42
	Delhi- Kullu & V/V	06	ATR-42
Spice Jet	Delhi-Dharmasala & V/V	07	Q-400

Operationalisation of airport situated at HAL, Bangalore

†1296. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make the airport situated at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore operational again, if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.