

(c) whether some Boeing 777 aircrafts bought by Air India recently are still lying unutilized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether all Boeing 777 aircrafts purchased by Air India have been put into service, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Pilots have wrongly alleged that the Management has insured the grounded aircraft at an exorbitant cost. However, it is a customary practice for airline operators to insure the grounded aircraft against own damage as well as third party liability risks. Presently, these aircraft are insured not only against own damage for an agreed value but also against any third party risks.

(c) and (d) All Boeing 777 aircraft are being utilized. However, three 777-200 LR aircraft were offered for sale or lease.

Expansion of Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport, Patna

†1302. SHRI HARIVANSH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has submitted a proposal to Airports Authority of India (AAI) regarding permanent handing over of land measuring 6.37 acres in Mauza Saghanpura under Patna Sadar region for expansion of Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport, Patna;

(b) whether an amount of ₹ 50.96 crores at the rate of ₹ 8 per decimal and five per cent of 'Salami', 25 times of land revenue (lagan) i.e. ₹ 63 crore and 70 lakhs which comes to ₹ 114.66 crores have been demanded from AAI for the same; and

(c) if so, the action taken by AAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Bihar has submitted a proposal for handing over of 6.37 acres of land to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for expansion of Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport at Patna at a cost of ₹ 114.66 crores. However, AAI has requested the State Government to provide the said land, free of cost and free from all encumbrances, as per the general practice for development of airports.

Level playing field for Indian Airlines

1303. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether to counter the dominance of foreign carriers especially Gulf carriers on Indian skies, Government plans to develop connectivity to Tier II and III cities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many Indian carriers that fly overseas offer only point-to-point connectivity between India and Middle East, whereas foreign carriers offer instant connectivity to the rest of the world to the Indian flyers; and

(c) if so, the details of Government proposals to provide level playing field for Indian carriers flying abroad *vis-a-vis* foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No Sir. To encourage regional and remote connectivity Government is making effort to develop better connectivity to Tier II and III cities.

(b) and (c) Role of Government is to provide legal framework for operation of Indian carrier on international route. However, operation of any airlines is guided by their commercial viability and planning. Government does not interfere in it.

Monitoring of surplus land assets by AI

1304. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) is having vast surplus land assets across the country;

(b) if so, the details of surplus land assets, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to monetize the surplus land assets; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Details of land assets of Air India across the country are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per Turnaround Plan (TAP) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Air India is to monetize its assets and generate ₹ 5000 crore over a period of 10 years. Air India is considering for the development of its land parcels on Joint Venture basis on various models. The project specific development agreement/model shall be decided mutually on case to case basis based on the credentials of the specific property.