

Extension of runway at Bhuntar Airport in Kullu

11. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to extend the runway at the Bhuntar airport in Kullu by constructing an over-bridge and by partially diverting the Beas river from its current path;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that technical experts from IIT Roorkee and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have submitted any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal along with the time by when the proposal of extension of runway at Bhuntar airport is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal of the State Government is for extension of Kullu airport runway by 550m *i.e.* from 1128m to 1678m for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft without load penalty. The proposal involves handing over of 27.7 hectares of land by the State Government to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances, by reclaiming the land by diversion of rivers/river training mainly of river Beas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. HT Roorkee, engaged by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, had submitted the final report on comprehensive river engineering study for diversion of river Beas for the proposed runway extension in September, 2013. No definite timeline for extension of runway can be drawn at this stage as it is for the State Government to demarcate and acquire the land, complete the process of river training/river diversion etc. and hand over the land to AAI for extension of runway.

Development of well equipped user-friendly ultra-modern airports

12. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infrastructural constraints are the biggest obstacles in the growth of Indian civil aviation;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop well-equipped, user-friendly ultra-modern

airports to handle as many as 280 million passengers per year;

(c) whether there is any plan to develop and modernize airports at 35 secondary cities and, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is no provision for separate parking of helicopters and the helicopters are operating from airports; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to develop heliports and heli-routes in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has taken several steps for further enhancement of airport infrastructure in the country by developing new airports under the Greenfield airport policy and by modernising and upgrading the existing airports from time to time depending on traffic demand, socio-economic considerations, availability of land etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already undertaken modernization/upgradation work at 35 non-metro airports of which the construction work at 33 airports have already been completed.

(d) and (e) There is provision to accommodate helicopters either in the available parking or separate parking, on demand basis, at all airports.

Payment of dues by private airlines

13. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked the private airlines to pay their dues within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the details of amount to be paid by each airline in the private sector as on date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the AAI has warned the private airlines to clear the due amount, failing which the airlines may be put on cash and carry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of amount/dues to be paid by major private airlines as on 31.12.2014 (provisional) are as follows: