

Privatisation of airports

28. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal to privatize Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has opposed this move; and
- (d) if so, what are their objections and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal of privatization of airports at present. However, the 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) and have issued Request for Qualification documents on 30.12.2014.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

New civil airport for Leh, Ladakh

29. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a new civil airport for Leh, Ladakh and any area for this has been selected;
- (b) if so, by when the new airport is expected to be commissioned;
- (c) whether there is any plan to connect Zaskar region of Ladakh with regular air connectivity; and
- (d) whether Government is also contemplating subsidised air fare between Leh-Delhi for the benefits of residents of Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal at present.

- (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport service of different regions of the country. Subject to the above guidelines,

the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country. However, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(d) No, Sir. However, Airlines are free to establish airfares under the provisions of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules taking into account all relevant factors like the cost of operation, services provided, reasonable profit, the generally prevailing tariff etc.

Biju patnaik international airport

†30. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Biju Patnaik International Airport situated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha has not been included in draft Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) whether the Central Government has received any request from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the policy of Government on this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The draft Civil Aviation Policy is meant for all civilian airports/civil enclaves in the country.

(b) and (c) No such request has been received from the State Government of Odisha. However, the Government has decided to promote the six metro airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad as international hubs to serve as the main access points for international travel to and from India, as this is essential for developing domestic civil aviation.

Additional flights by AI during festive seasons

31. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India deploys larger planes to counter rising domestic fares as well as to deal with rising demand during festival seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time in recent years that Air India is operating additional flights and changing aircraft during festive period to come to the rescue of passengers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.