

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh Government has requested for additional land measuring 4.23 acres at Bhopal Airport. The transfer of land at Bhopal Airport is subject to signing of MoU by Madhya Pradesh Government for earlier leased land measuring 5.87 acres.

Commencement of civil operations from Bidar Airport

925. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the proposal of the State Government of Karnataka to commence civil operations at the Bidar Airport has been pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the permission of the Ministry is held up for want of NoC from GMR Hyderabad for commencing civil operations; and

(c) whether the Ministry has sorted out the matter with GMR Hyderabad and issued necessary permission to commence civil operations at Bidar Airport in view of huge investment already made at the Airport which has been taken note of by the joint inspection team of Airports Authority of India and Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Bidar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. On receipt of in principle approval from Indian Air Force (IAF), Ministry of Defence for establishment of Civil Enclave for civil flight operation from Bidar Air Force Station, Government of Karnataka had constructed a prefabricated Passenger Terminal Building with capacity to handle 100 peak hour passengers at a time. Subsequently, Government of Karnataka requested for commencement of civil operations from the new civil enclave.

(b) and (c) The civil enclave is within the aerial distance of 150 Km from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Shamshabad and the Concession Agreement entered into between Government of India (GoI) and M/s Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) imposes obligation on GoI against operationalization of the same. Hence, the commencement of civil flight operations have not taken place as HIAL raised objection that development of Bidar Airport for civil flight operations is in contravention of the Concession Agreement.

Regulating use of sky lanterns near airports

926. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of sky lanterns being launched in South parts of the country and particularly near airports posing serious danger to the aeroplanes and helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to regulate the use of these sky lanterns/hot air balloons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no provision in the Aircraft Rules 1937 with regards to sky lanterns. However, the requirements for manufacture, registration and airworthiness of control of hot air balloons have been laid down by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) *vide* Civil Aviation Requirement, Section 2 - Airworthiness Series F, Part XV issue II dated 01.09.1993. The pilot licence (Balloon) is also issued to fly Hot Air Balloons Section D and Section H of Schedule-II of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Air India routes taken over by private airlines

927. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private airlines have taken over the sectors operated by Air India, both domestic and international;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue loss to Air India because of such a takeover; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to re-capture the viable and profitable, but lost routes of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Operation on any Domestic or International route is based on the commercial judgement of airlines and Air India is given first priority before making any allocation to any private carriers operating on international sectors.