

(₹ in lakh)

Date	Price of A TF in Delhi	Decreased/Increased
January 2015	52,423	Decreased
February 2015	46,513	Decreased
March 2015	50,363	Increased
April 2015	49,337	Decreased

(b) and (c) No such analysis has been carried out by the Ministry. Under the existing regulations air fares are not regulated by the Government and airlines are free to fix reasonable charges/fee subject to compliance with Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Civilian use of drones in the country

1719. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to allow civilian use of drones in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the guidelines issued for the purpose; and
- (c) whether Government has assessed the safety and security issues involved before allowing civilian use of drones, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) As of now, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has restricted civil use of drones, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) *vide* public notice available in www.dgca.nic.in International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has not issued any Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for operation of civil UAS so far. However, DGCA has initiated the process of framing operational guidelines for civil use of UAS.

Development of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha

1720. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for increase in the estimated cost of development of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha; and
- (b) the details of the scheduled time of starting construction and completing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) There is no increase in the estimated cost of ₹ 174.90 crores for development of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha.

(b) Development of Airports is a continuous process which is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time. The timelines for construction of airports depends on several factors like availability of land, mandatory regulatory clearances etc.

Purchase of 68 wide-bodied 777 Boeing aircrafts

1721. SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government purchased 68 wide-bodied Boeing 777 aircrafts even though the expert committee of Air India did not favour such a proposal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of staggering ₹ 13000 crore per aircraft was paid to Boeing company which is highly exorbitant as compared to price offered by the same company to other international airlines; and

(c) if so, whether Government would order for CBI inquiry into the deal which caused loss of revenue to the exchequer and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Based on the report submitted by Techno-Economic and Negotiating Committee, Air India board approved the purchase of 68 aircraft from Boeing. An Empowered group of Ministers (EGOM) was constituted to negotiate with Boeing and Engine manufacturer. Based on the terms decided by EGOM with Boeing and Engine manufacturer, Government approved for the purchase of 68 aircraft from Boeing. Thereafter, Air India had entered into a purchase agreement with Boeing for purchase of 23 Boeing 777, 27 Boeing 787 and 18 Boeing 737 aircraft in December 2005.

(b) No, Sir. Air India has followed an established system of tendering and the purchase price of such aircraft purchases were finalized based on the competitive bids.

(c) No, Sir.

Operation of domestic airlines in remote areas and regions

1722. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of operation of domestic airlines in remote areas and regions;