

(b) and (c) The Draft Civil Aviation Policy provides for improving air connectivity to all regions and to remote areas, while also addressing issues related to affordability of air travel.

Mental fitness of pilots

2412. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been found that airlines were not providing training to their crew to manage crises;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the quality of our pilots is not up to the mark;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our pilots fly well, but lack in ability to handle a situation under stress; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that a few incidents in the past including the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flights and the deliberate crash of a Germanwings plane, have made airlines and regulatory authorities to look at mental fitness of pilots to improve air safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Airlines are providing training to aircrew as prescribed in their Operations Manual which is approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) In order to ensure continued proficiency, pilots are trained and checked periodically for handling normal and abnormal situation as per training syllabus approved by DGCA.

(d) After the accident of Germanwings Flight 9525 on 24.3.2015, DGCA has constituted a working group to carry out study and recommend "Policy on Psychometric Test for Flight Crew". The working group has submitted its report in July, 2015, which is presently placed on DGCA website for inviting public comments. Similarly, European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) had constituted a task force to study "Measures following the Accident of Germanwings Flight 9525" and has published the report on EASA website.

Request from States to commence air services

†2413. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received requests from the States to start air services from the airports, which are ready for operation of flights;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the locations in the States for which requests have been received for starting the operation of the air services together with the dates of requests made for; and

(c) by when air services will commence from those airports alongwith the reasons for not according permission so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) In recent past air services have started in the States of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Air Pegasus have started operation on Bengaluru-Kadapa-Bengaluru route effective 7.6.2015 with a frequency of 03 flights/week and Alliance Air has started on Kolkata-Durgapur-Kolkata route effective 18.5.2015 with a frequency of 06 flights/week. Further, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance with RDGs.

Transfer of technicians of Alliance Air

2414. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of technicians of Alliance Air have been transferred from Kolkata to Hyderabad within 24 hours notice, if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. 05 Technicians of Alliance Air were transferred to Hyderabad from Kolkata for operational requirements. The transfer order was issued on 30th June, 2015 and they were released on 8th July, 2015 to join duties at Hyderabad in view of the newly commenced ATR-72 aircraft operations from Hyderabad.

Promotion to air connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2415. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of upgradation of airports to international standard at Tirupati and Visakhapatnam;