

(b) whether any decision has been taken to fill up this post; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is yet to take a decision on the appointment of Chairman of Air India as the incumbent is on extension since August, 2014, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is headed by a Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation). The previous incumbent of this post retired on superannuation on 31.10.2012.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been requested to provide a panel of eligible officers for the post of Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation) in BCAS.

(c) The Search-cum-Selection Committee for selection of the new incumbent has already been constituted by the Government.

Expansion of air services in Tamil Nadu

2417. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: whether Government proposes to expand air services in Tamil Nadu in view of the unprecedented rise in the number of air travellers in Tamil Nadu during the last few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): As per approved Summer 2015 Schedule, scheduled air services are available to/from 05 cities in the State of Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Tuticorin). Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the scheduled airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Upgradation of airports under PPP Model

2418. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-metro airports in the country and the number of them operational;

(b) whether Government has undertaken/proposes to undertake expansion/modernisation of metro and non-metro airports under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP)