

(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)

model including airports in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any requests from the States for modernisation of the airports and helipads, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and airport-wise; and

(d) whether Government has directed the airport regulator to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to avoid delays in upgradation/modernisation plans of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) There are 119 non-metro airports owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI), out of which 89 of them are operational.

(b) Airports at Delhi and Mumbai were modernized by the Government of India under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model. Further, three Greenfield Airports namely, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kochi were constructed under PPP model. As per the existing Greenfield Policy of Ministry of Civil Aviation, State Governments/private operators are also encouraged to construct airports including airports in Karnataka.

(c) Requests for upgradation/modernisation of the following airports were received in the last three years:

Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh, Hissar and Karnal in Haryana, Kullu and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Leh Airports in Jammu and Kashmir, Deoghar in Jharkhand, Belgaum and Hubli in Karnataka, Jharsuguda in Odisha, Ludhiana in Punjab, Kishanganh and Jodhpur (CE) in Rajasthan, Coimbatore and Tuticorin Airport in Tamil Nadu, Agartala, Kailashahar and Kamalpur in Tripura, Gorakhpur (CE), Kanpur (Chakeri) (CE), Agra (CE), Allahabad (CE) and Bareilly (CE) in Uttar Pradesh, Agatti in the Union territory of Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the Union Territory of Puducherry respectively.

(d) The Project Monitoring and Quality Assurance Department in AAI collects and compiles the progress of various projects on monthly basis for periodical monitoring of the projects of upgradation/modernization of Airports. The Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports monitors the progress of the Greenfield Airport Projects and the OMDA (Operation, Management and Development Agreement) Implementation Oversight Committee (OIOC) monitors the progress of the joint venture airports at Delhi and Mumbai. Moreover, in order to ensure timely completion of projects, the progress of Airport projects is closely monitored by AAI and the Government.