Zero baggage fare

31. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a sort of cartelisation attempt, the no-frills carriers have sought introduction of 'zero' baggage fare to reward those choosing to travel light; and

(b) if so, whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is considering a proposal to allow airlines to charge for cabin baggage and also check-in baggage even within the erstwhile free-limit of 15 kgs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Under the provision of existing regulations, airlines are free to fix reasonable charges/fees for the services being offered by them which include charges for check in baggage above 15 kgs.

(b) In order to make the basic fare more affordable and to provide the customer an option of paying for the services which he/she wishes to avail, it has been decided by the Government to allow check-in baggage charges above 15 kgs of free check-in baggage allowance, to be unbundled and to be charged separately on opt-in basis of the passenger. Charges for the unbundled services shall be a fixed amount and shall not vary with the base fare for particular sector/flight. Scheduled airlines shall display the unbundled services and charges thereto on their respective website in a transparent and conspicuous manner. DGCA has issued Air Transport Circular 02 of 2015 in this regard.

New airport at Arunachal Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government has planned to build a new airport at Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For development of a Greenfield airport in Arunachal Pradesh, a site has been identified at Holongi in Itanagar. The Airports Authority of India has also prepared a Master Plan for operation of A-320 type of aircraft in Phase-I.