

**New airports in Bihar**

†978. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to build new airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of airports proposed to be built in the country and the names of places in Bihar where airports are proposed, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR.MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India (GoI) has so far granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 14 Greenfield airports namely, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Shimoga, Gulbarga, Hassan and Bijapur in Karnataka, Kannur in Kerala, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Datia in Gwalior (Cargo) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh and Karaikal in Puducherry. The commercial operations at Durgapur in West Bengal have already commenced on 18th May, 2015. As per the Greenfield Airport Policy, the applicant proposing to set up an airport would make an application to the Steering Committee in the format as per Greenfield Airport Policy. Presently, no proposal has been received for setting up of Greenfield Airport in Bihar as per Greenfield Airport Policy.

**Improvement in financial efficiency of Air India**

979. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have improved in the area of financial efficiency during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which International segment provides for highest profit/revenue for Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR.MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) In view of the losses suffered by Air India upto 2010-11 and its mounting debt burden, the Cabinet Committee on Economic

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 12.4.2012, approved a Turnaround Plan (TAP)/ Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) for operational and financial turnaround of Air India subject to achievement of certain laid down milestones by AI. The Company has achieved the Targets set out in the TAP milestones, and has made substantial progress in both Operational as well as Financial Areas. The financial performance of Air India in FY 2014-15 in comparison to FY 2011-12, when the Turnaround Plan was initiated are as follows:

- (i) The Operating Loss has consistently reduced since merger and in 2014-15, the same stands at ₹ 2636.19 crores as compared to ₹ 5138 crores in 2011-12.
- (ii) As per 2014-15, the Net Loss is ₹ 5859.91 crores as against the loss of ₹ 7559.74 crores in 2011-12 *i.e.* a reduction by 22.5%.
- (iii) The Company has turned EBIDTA positive by ₹ 337.77 crores in 2014-15 as against the negative EBIDTA of ₹ 2236.95 crores in 2011-12.
- (iv) Total Revenue increased from ₹ 14713.81 crores in 2011-12 to ₹ 20606.27 crores in 2014-15 *i.e.* by ₹ 5892.46 *viz* by 40.1% as compare to levels of 2011-12.

(c) Civil Aviation is a highly dynamic and competitive sector. Profit of a route depends on multiple factor such as seasonality of demand, economic growth, festivals, weather patterns etc. and routes do not remain profitable or loss making permanently. In view of the commercially confidential nature as well as its psychological impact on travel patterns the information cannot be revealed.

#### **MoU with Korea for better air connectivity**

980. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Republic of Korea to enhance the existing air service cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of cities proposed to be connected will Republic of Korea; and

(d) the extent to which the air connectivity will be enhanced after signing of aforesaid MoU?