

Restoration of profit making flight routes to AI

†1785. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such flight routes which were profit making but handed over to private airlines after the year 2007;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at present first preference is given to aircrafts belonging to private airlines for take off;

(c) whether Government will consider to restore profit making flight routes to Air India as in the past; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) No Analysis with respect to profit making routes has been carried out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). There is no restriction for any airline to operate on any domestic route. All schedule airlines including Air India on considering viability of operation file for approval of flight schedule on any domestic route.

(c) and (d) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines 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 airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Upgradation of the Vijayawada airport

1786. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the airport in Vijayawada to the category of Gr. 2/Gr. 3 or so, so as to create the necessary infrastructure;

(b) what are the various infrastructural facilities being created to meet the growing demand of air travellers in Vijayawada airport;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start direct flight services from Delhi, Mumbai and other important cities of the country to Vijayawada for the convenience of various travellers visiting Vijayawada; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.