

**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

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Development and Upgradation of airports is a continuous process which is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending upon traffic demand, availability of land free from all encumbrances, commercial viability, technical feasibility, etc. Modification and expansion work of existing passenger terminal building to cater 250 peak hour passengers at Vijayawada Airport has been completed. Further, work for new interim domestic terminal building to handle 500 peak hour passengers at a time along with car park, new approach road, additional apron for parking 10 parking bays for A-320 type of aircrafts and associated facilities has also been awarded.

(c) and (d) Presently, Air India is providing direct air services between Delhi and Vijayawada on daily basis. Besides, direct air connectivity to other important cities such as Bangalore and Hyderabad is also available through scheduled services by Air Costa, Alliance Air and Spicejet airlines to/from Vijayawada Airport. There are no direct air services between Mumbai and Vijayawada. The airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. However, it is up to airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability.

#### **Improving finances of loss making airlines**

1787. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's airlines are financially sick today;

(b) if so, the losses suffered by the airlines since last three years, airline-wise;

(c) the details of the airlines which are making profit during last three years, airline-wise; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to improve the finances of loss making airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Financial summary of scheduled Indian carriers during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is attached as Statement (*See* below).

(d) The Government has taken several measures like persuading State Governments to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), allowing direct import of ATF by Indian Carriers as actual users, permitting foreign airlines to