

(c) whether the instruments purchased are inter-operable with international and indigenous Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS), if so, the details thereof, if not, its implication on enabling navigational facilities at Indian airports; and

(d) the reasons for purchase of instruments from vendors other than those deploying GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) at all Indian airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has initiated process with scheduled commencement in March, 2016 for installation of Central Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) in India. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of first phase of C-ATFM project has been awarded with a total estimated cost of ₹107 Crores.

(c) No, Sir. C-ATFM is for the purpose of balancing the demand and capacity at airports and airspace. There is no implication on navigational facilities at Indian airports.

(d) The GAGAN system has been jointly developed by Airports Authority of India and Indian Space Research Organisation. The C-ATFM and GAGAN are used for different functions. Hence, purchase of instruments from the same vendor is not warranted.

Competition from the airlines of Gulf countries

2576. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is unable to face competition from the airlines of Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, what Government proposes to do to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Air India, like many other carriers, is facing competition from various Gulf carriers. Ministry of Civil Aviation has given intra gulf rights exclusively to Air India. Further, Government also gives due consideration on Air India's views/requests while taking a decision on enhancement of capacity entitlement and priority to Air India while allocating traffic rights among other Indian carriers.

Operational and Non-operational airports with AAI

2577. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of operational and non-operational airports in the country including those under the Airports Authority of India (AAI), State/UT-wise;