

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Regional connectivity is the priority of the Government. The Draft Civil Aviation Policy-2015 released in October, 2015 envisages implementation of Regional connectivity scheme at affordable fares to cater to the middle class income bracket by revival of unserved city pairs by way of concessions, cost effective security & safety solutions and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for airline operators. However, as per approved winter schedule - 2015, Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Tuticorin in the State of Tamil Nadu have air connectivity.

Cargo terminal at Raipur Airport

†2580. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on the fact that industries would benefit by converting the old terminal of the Raipur Airport of Chhattisgarh, into cargo terminal; and

(b) whether the Government also proposes to start air services by developing commercial airport at Raigarh, because Raigarh is developed as industrial centre in Chhattisgarh and has lots of potential for air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The existing old/redundant passenger Terminal at Raipur Airport has been converted into a Common User Domestic Cargo Terminal (CUDCT) for promoting air cargo growth in the region. Air Cargo Terminals including international and domestic cargo facilities at the airports of Airports Authority of India and Joint Venture airports are developed by the respective airport operators from time to time based on their assessment of existing market conditions and future potential for such facilities.

(b) The Government has not received any proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh for setting up of airport at Raigarh as per the format of Greenfield Airport Policy. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Chhattisgarh (GoCG) had signed an agreement on 23.7.2013 for construction of Kondatarai (Raigarh) Airport in "Chhattisgarh. As per the MoU, the State Government is yet to provide the requisite land and the funds to AAI.

Solar powered airports

2581. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the fact that the Cochin

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

International Airport Limited recently gained the distinction of being the first solar powered airport in the world;

(b) whether Government considered rolling out similar projects in other airports around the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Cochin International Airport Limited has installed solar plant with an aggregate capacity of 13.1 Megawatt.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has installed roof top solar power plants with a total capacity of 1800 KWp at its headquarter *i.e.* Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi and at various airports/units namely, Raipur, Bhopal, Indore, Guwahati, Jaisalmer, Bhubaneswar, Amritsar, Lucknow and Jaipur. AAI has further initiated solar power plants, both roof top & ground based, with a total capacity of 27400 KWp, at its airports at Jodhpur, Patna, Ranchi, Calicut, Kolkata, Allahabad, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Jaipur. AAI also has a plan to provide solar power plants at Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Madurai and Gaya airports to make these airports energy neutral, subject to availability of "Net Metering" facility for ground mounted solar photo voltaic power plants and approval from respective Distribution Company/State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Participation of NSOP holders at charter operations

2582. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to allow Non-Schedule Operator Permit (NSOP) holders or charter operators to have a timetable like scheduled airlines and fly from metros to non-metros and within small towns; and

(b) if so, how many non-schedule operator permit holders are there in the country, and the number of routes identified for participation of non-schedule operator permit holders, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As on date, the total number of Non Scheduled Operator Permit (NSOP) holders in the country are 129. These NSOP holders can operate freely anywhere in the country. The operator is also free to operate a series of flights on